

# *The* **PRODUCER**

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No. 4



## SEPTEMBER 1929

*Official Organ of the*  
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ASSOCIATION**

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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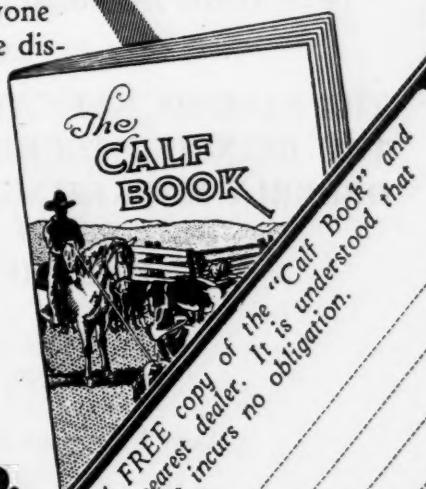
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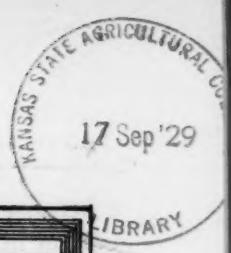
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# THE PRODUCER

## THE NATIONAL LIVE STOCK MONTHLY

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Number 4

### The Struggle for Existence among Range Plants

BY HERBERT C. HANSON

*Colorado Agricultural College, Fort Collins, Colorado*

THE INTENSITY of the struggle for existence among plants is not realized, because it goes on so quietly. The winners in the struggle grow and blossom, covering the decline and death of the

The necessities for which plants compete vary in different types of vegetation. In a young forest the trees can usually kill out the grasses because of their longer reach in obtaining light and soil moisture. Sagebrush limits or prevents the growth of grass, because of its apparently better facilities for absorbing soil moisture.

The competition between plants of similar habits is usually more intense than that between plants of unlike habits. The struggle between grama grass and buffalo grass, both having similar shoot and root habits, is more severe than that between western wheat grass and grama grass, because the latter has shallower roots. The competition between grama grass and prickly-pear cactus is often a keen one,

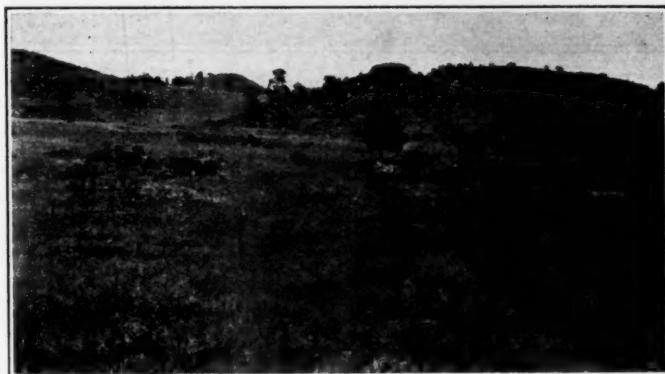


FIGURE 1—Mixed prairie type of range on deep soil between rocky outcrops covered with mountain mahogany, antelope brush, and scattered yellow pines. Forty to seventy-five different kinds of plants struggle for existence in mixed prairie range. (Near Virginia Dale, Colorado.)

losers. Early in the spring, on an area about three feet square, there may be found ten thousand or more seedlings of such weeds as ragweed, knotweed, or smartweed. At the end of the summer 90 per cent or more of these plants have succumbed to the struggle for existence. Such a high mortality is the result of terribly keen competition for certain necessities of plant life. These young weed plants were putting forth every effort to lengthen stem and root, in order to obtain adequate light, water, and mineral food materials, such as nitrates, potash, and phosphates; but only a few could survive.

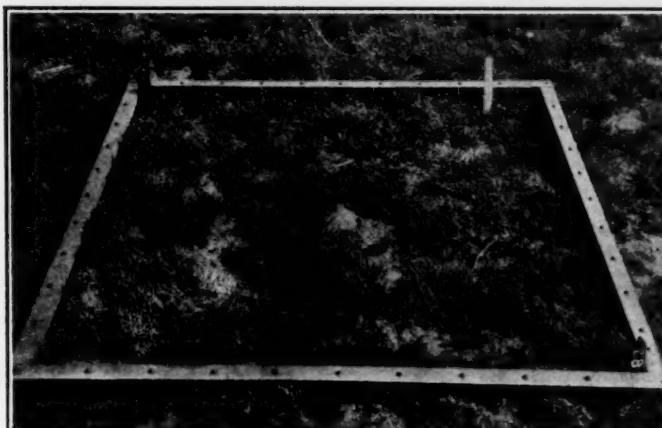


FIGURE 2—Short-grass range near Akron, Colorado. Buffalo grass has the more curled leaves; blue grama, the more erect leaves. Competition is intense between these plants of similar growth habits. Other kinds of plants have a difficult time trying to invade such a type.

because the roots of each are in the same shallow layer of soil. Plants may avoid competition with one another by growing at different seasons of the year. Early spring plants, such as violets and bluebells, do



FIGURE 3—The decrease in vigor of blue grama grass caused by overgrazing has made possible this invasion of prickly-pear cactus. (Near Saguache, San Luis Valley, Colorado.)

not compete appreciably with those that bloom in the fall, such as sages or snakeweed.

In most grasslands the plants make such full demands upon the soil, especially for moisture, that there is little chance for new invaders. There may be as many as seventy-five different kinds of plants on an area of a few acres. Seedlings may start to

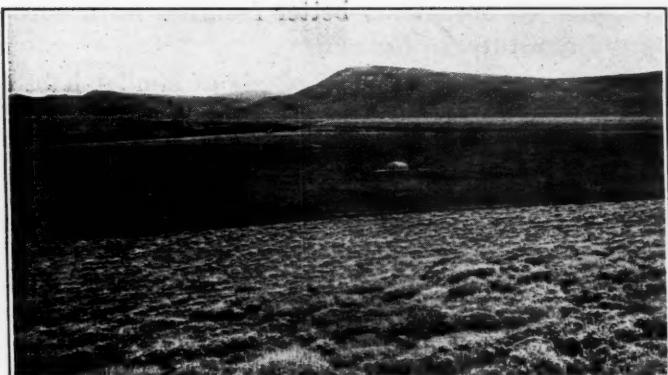


FIGURE 4—Sagebrush, in the foreground, by means of its efficient water-absorbing system prevents nearly all growth of grass. Irrigation quickly kills sagebrush and makes possible the growth of hay plants. (Laramie River Valley, Colorado.)

grow, but they cannot survive the competition of the established plants. A few plants may, however, be able to invade by subterranean methods, and offer strong competition to, the plants already present. Good examples of such invaders are quack grass, western wheat grass or bluestem, Kentucky bluegrass in alfalfa fields, poverty weed, and blue grama. Most of these have vigorous underground stems or rootstocks which can grow horizontally through the soil from several inches to over a foot. In this way new plants may arise in places where seedlings could not survive. But these rootstock shoots are sup-

ported until they get a good start by the parent plants at a distance. It is a sort of chain-store competition. The new plants can compete on favorable terms, and often, eventually, kill out their long-established neighbors.

Usually, however, even such underground invasion, and consequent competition, does not occur unless the vegetation is disturbed in some way. There are many ways in which the natural relationships between plants and the environment may become unbalanced. Some of these are overgrazing, trampling, rodents, erosion, flooding, insect and fungus attacks, and man's numerous activities. Insects and fungi attack certain plants. Grasshoppers, for example, in northern Colorado appear to prefer buffalo,



FIGURE 5—A good stand of mixed prairie range between Alliance and Scottsbluff, Nebraska. The most important forage plants are blue grama and porcupine grass.

grama, and western wheat grasses and certain vetches. These plants, then, are at a disadvantage in the struggle for existence with plants that are not attacked, such as wild alfalfa and aster. If a certain kind of plant is just able to survive the competition of other plants, the added burden of an insect or fungus attack would very likely kill it.

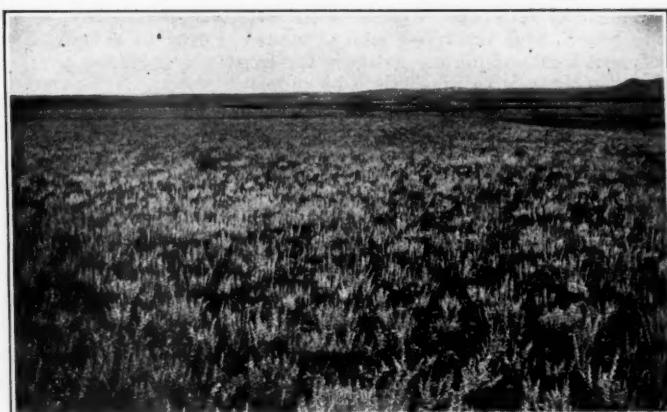


FIGURE 6—Mixed prairie range near Regent, North Dakota, overgrazed by cattle. The valuable blue grama and porcupine grasses have been replaced by mountain sage (*estafata*).

Overgrazing handicaps the plants that are most valuable for grazing. Usually only a few out of the forty to seventy-five kinds that are present in a grassland type are valuable for grazing. When these few are grazed so closely that they cannot make enough food to maintain their vigor, the less valuable plants, which are already "eager for more room in the sun," increase in vigor. The valuable grazing plants are placed at such a disadvantage in the intense struggle for existence that they must succumb. In this way, prickly-pear cactus replaces grama grass, mountain sage replaces porcupine and grama grasses on cattle range, and gumweed or snakeweed replaces western wheat grass and other valuable forage species.

Excessive trampling, especially when the soil is wet, destroys roots, rootstocks, corns, and stems of plants. The tracks left by the live stock, often one to two inches deep, make almost ideal seeding spots for weeds. Texas crab grass and three-awn grass often owe their start in western wheat-grass range to such tracks made by cattle. Not only are conditions for seed germination favorable in such spots, but the intense competition is decreased, due to the injury or death of some of the wheat grass.

The only way to maintain a good stand of forage plants is so to manage the range that these plants will be able to hold their own in the struggle for existence. This struggle is usually so intense that only a slight decrease in a plant's vigor may cause it to lose its place to inferior forage plants.

#### DEATH OF R. R. HAMMOND

J. E. P.

**R. R. HAMMOND IS DEAD.** He was known in cattle-trade circles as "Railroad" Hammond, having worked up from telegraph operator on the Burlington to vice-president in charge of construction of the Frisco lines.

Hammond's obsession was cattle. For years he was one of the most prominent operators in the country. He was a master of the art of figuring, attempting application of the principles of railroad-construction cost to the more elusive beef-making operation. On the back of an envelope he could work out a cattle-feeding problem in convincing manner, including initial cost, feed cost, gains, labor, and other incidentals.

His operations were on a scale of such magnitude as to involve great hazards. He bred calves by the thousand in the Canadian country down in Texas, transferring them to a farm exceeding 1,000 acres in Cook County, Illinois, right under the shadow of Chicago's smoke, where he carried them to the yearling stage. To protect calves from the inclemency of a northern winter, he "glassed" several acres.

If efficiency could make cattle-feeding profitable, Hammond would have done it, but in an industry notoriously hazardous he was forced to take heavy losses at intervals, and by instinct he was a gambler. His farms adjoining Chicago came into the area of suburban development during his cattle-feeding career, much of his land appreciating tenfold subsequent to the war. Hammond was a picturesque character, and deserves a place in cattle history.

#### CONSTITUTION

BY L. C. BRITE

Marfa, Texas

**A STRONG CONSTITUTION** is one of the most desirable characteristics that any herd of beef cattle can possess, and is a trait that is too often overlooked by the breeder.

If there is one essential that the breeder can afford to emphasize above all others, it is to breed for a strong constitution. He can afford to sacrifice, to a great extent at least, all other points of excellence, in order to build up the constitution of his herd.

The strong-constituted beef carries more flesh, gives more return for the feed consumed, is naturally calculated to withstand the hardships to which range cattle are especially and necessarily subjected, and is popular with the feeder for the reason that it means more profit to the operator.

On one occasion, during my early career as a breeder of beef cattle, before the Hereford invaded the range country, I was riding over my range, and noticed two of my high-grade Shorthorn cows standing by a waterhole. My attention was directed to the fact that, while these cows were apparently of the same breeding and age, and had during their lives used the same range, one was always strong and robust, a regular breeder, and looked thrifty and strong at eight, while the other was always lean and lank, experienced difficulty in surviving the winter seasons, did not breed regularly, and looked "dead old" at eight.

I realized, as I looked at the two cows standing side by side, that somehow there was a vast difference in their thriving qualities. But at the time I did not understand the cause for the difference. Before leaving that spot, however, I resolved to make a special study of the traits which tend to make a thrifty, flesh-carrying animal. I decided that, if I could learn what made one cow weak and the other thrifty, I would have accomplished something worth while in the cattle business.

After years of close attention and study, and with the help and instruction of the more experienced breeders, I am proud to say that the problem today is like a-b-c.

If we examine a house to ascertain its strength, we will consider the foundation, the roof, the walls, the materials, the workmanship, etc. In other words, we judge by the build. The same rule applies in judging the constitution of a bovine—we look at the build, or conformation.

I well remember that one of the cows above referred to had a long, narrow head, was very small around the "tho't latch," high off the ground, and narrow-contracted, while the other possessed a broad muzzle, was wide between the eyes, deep-bodied, close to the ground, with a wide brisket.

The head and neck are undoubtedly the best index to the constitution. The experienced feeder places great stress on the head and neck—not, of course, because of the food value of these parts, as we know they are not in demand, but by reason of the fact that a strong head and neck signify a strong constitution, with ample heart and lung power, and with good digestive organs.

A prominent breeder of Hereford cattle told me that on one occasion he sold a car of bulls to a buyer who never looked at the bulls from the rear, but passed along in front and made his selection entirely by the heads. I would agree with this buyer to the extent that, if I did not have time to look at more than one end, I would prefer to see their heads.

Phrenologists tell us that the faculties necessary to a strong constitution are located in the lower region of the head, where it joins the neck. Naturally, if these faculties are large and well developed, the neck will be correspondingly large. Hence, a stout neck usually signifies a strong constitution.

Whether we realize it or not, we are all phrenologists more or less. For instance, the faculties of combativeness and destructiveness are located in the side of the head, making it present a broad appearance. Should we care to enter a stranger's possessions, and there happens to be a yard dog on duty that carries a broad, ugly head, we usually hello someone of the household to control the dog. We have already phrenologized that dog's head, and pronounced him dangerous. The same faculty we have for judging disposition prompts us to refrain from ever kicking a bulldog.

### COST OF MOVING A HERD OF CATTLE TO NORTHERN MARKETS IN EARLY DAYS

BY COLONEL IKE T. PRYOR

San Antonio, Texas

NO DOUBT readers of THE PRODUCER would be interested to know the cost of moving a herd of cattle from southern Texas to the northwestern states and territories in the early days. Trail-driving from Texas to the Northwest in the old trail days was reduced to almost a science, and large numbers of cattle were moved at a minimum of cost. To illustrate, in 1884, I drove fifteen herds from southern Texas to the northwestern states and territories. It required a minimum of 165 men and about 1,000 saddle-horses to move this entire drive. These cattle were driven in droves of about 3,000 to each herd, with eleven men, including the boss, and each man was furnished with six horses.

The salaries were \$30 a month for each of the ten men, including the cook, and \$100 for the boss. This gave a monthly outlay of \$400. Estimating \$100 for provisions, there was an expense of \$500 a month to move a herd of 3,000 cattle 450 to 500 miles. Briefly speaking, in those days it was possible to drive 3,000 cattle 3,000 miles for \$3,000. In other words, from southern Texas to Montana a herd of 3,000 head could be driven for not to exceed \$3,000. My average expense on the fifteen herds in 1884 was about \$500 per month. The average distance traveled was from 450 to 500 miles per month. When I had delivered all of these cattle to Colorado, Montana, Dakota, and Wyoming ranchmen, I had lost 1,500 head, or 3 per cent.

Today it would cost \$25,000 or \$30,000 to move 3,000 steers from southern Texas to Montana. The only way they could be moved would be by rail. And I dare say the loss would be equal to 3 per cent.

The old trail-drivers had a margin of from \$3 to \$4 per head between Texas and the Northwest. In 1884 I paid \$12 for my yearlings, \$16 for my two-year-olds, and \$20 for my three-year-olds. I had them contracted to the ranchmen of the Northwest at \$4 a head margin.

In 1884 the last heavy drive was made, at least 750,000 head going up the trail. In the fall of that year, cattle started to go down, and continued to go down for nine years. Stock cattle in Texas that sold at \$25 a head in 1884 went as low as \$6 in 1893. Good Panhandle cattle were selling in 1893 for \$10 per head, and south Texas cattle were selling at about \$6 a head. As proof of this, I bought the Cross S cattle, about 10,000 head, at \$6.30 per head, no calves counted, and with a guarantee of 2,500 three- and four-year-old steers out of a possible number of 10,000 head. These cattle were loaded on board the Southern Pacific cars for me at Uvalde and Spofford, Texas, at this price.

I remember one trip I made with a herd in 1871. We had no trail to follow, and not a watch or compass in the outfit. At night, when we would stop, the tongue of the wagon was pointed toward the North Star. The next morning, when we

made our start, we would take the direction indicated by the wagon-tongue. We maintained four guards of three hours each during the night. Although we had no timepiece, it is a fact that each man stood guard fifteen or twenty minutes over his time, and the last guard for the night had the short watch. This shows the generous disposition of those old trail boys, in that they would not "throw off" on their comrades.

There is a movement now on foot to build a monument to the memory of these old trail-drivers. While slow progress is being made, the cause is such a worthy one that I have no doubt that in time it will be erected. George W. Saunders, president of the Old Trail Drivers' Association, and Mrs. R. R. Russell, both of San Antonio, Texas, are working on this plan, and they are so thoroughly convinced of the worthiness of the cause that they feel confident of "putting it over" in time. I am hoping they will succeed.

### BY-PRODUCTS IN BEEF-PACKING WITH REFERENCE TO A DUTY ON HIDES

BY L. G. CONNOR

Washington, D. C.

BY-PRODUCTS IN MEAT-PACKING in general, and in beef-packing in particular, have an important bearing on prices paid for live cattle, on prices charged for meat, or both. Thus, if by-product values rise, more can be paid for live animals, the meats can be sold for lower prices, or both results may occur. In beef-packing operations, in particular, the competition between packers is such that the operators look to the by-products to cover operating and marketing costs, and to supply their profit. This is true despite the relative unimportance of the by-products as compared with the main product. The foregoing results from the development of large-scale packing plants, with huge quantities of these by-products, which to a considerable degree used to be wastes. With large quantities of these by-products it is economical to process them, either to a finished product or to a condition where they are usable as raw materials in subsidiary industries.

The following tabulation shows the percentage of total receipts which are supplied by meat, hide or pelt, and other by-products, as determined by Armour & Co.:

Class of Live Stock	Percentage of Total Returns Derived from—		
	Meat	Hides or Pelts	Other By-Products
Hogs.....	96.6	Sold with carcass	3.4
Sheep.....	81.4	14.5	4.1
Calves.....	92.8	Sold with carcass	7.2
Steers.....	87.3	8.6	4.1

The following tabulation, adapted from the same work, shows the relationship of the dressed beef, the cured hide, and other processed by-products to the live weight of the average steer slaughtered:

	Per Cent.
Beef .....	54.3
Hides .....	5.9
Fats .....	3.3
Head .....	2.2
Feet .....	1.1
Blood .....	0.7
Casings .....	0.8
Valueless materials .....	10.1
Total shrinkage .....	21.6
Total .....	100.0

\*Data from "By-Products in the Packing Industry," by R. A. Clemen (1927), page 9.

The weight of the green hide usually is figured at about 6.5 per cent of the weight of the live animal. The weight of the cured hide is about two-thirds of the processed weight of the other by-products. The value of the hide, however, averages more than twice as much as the value of all the other by-products. For this reason, hide values have a very strong influence on cattle and beef prices. Any factor which affects the price of hides, therefore, is reflected in prices paid for live cattle, or prices charged for beef, or both.

As an illustration of this, the following quotations from the annual reports of the president of Swift & Co. to the stockholders may be of interest:

"The spread between cattle prices and dressed-beef prices has been larger than normal, because of low values of by-products and high operating expenses." ("Yearbook," 1922, referring to 1921 operations.)

"In 1922 the return from by-products showed a marked increase as compared with 1921, and expenses showed a slight decrease. As a result, there was an approach to the usual relation between prices of live animals and proceeds from beef. In fact, . . . during some recent weeks we have been selling the beef for less than the amount we have paid for the live animal." (1923.)

"The low prices of hides have been an important factor in keeping down prices of cattle. . . . The great decrease in hide prices since the war peak means a decrease of about \$24 per head in the value of heavy cattle." (1924.)

"The serious drop in values of hides . . . in 1920 necessarily was reflected in live-animal values. . . . It is not generally realized how important an effect by-product values have on prices of live stock. . . . Since the returns from by-products are included in figuring our profits on meat, the prices that we get for these by-products have an important bearing on prices and profits." (1921.)

In this connection, it may be of interest to note that during 1922 to 1928 native beef steers at Chicago averaged nearly 30 per cent higher in price than during 1921—the low year. But dressed beef (good and medium sides) averaged only about 7 per cent higher in price during 1922 to 1928. The difference was in part made up by better returns for hides and other by-products, prices for which averaged 30 per cent higher during 1922 to 1928 than during 1921. The rest of the difference between the rise in fat-cattle prices as compared with the rise in beef prices is explained by the fact that in 1921 the returns from hides and by-products were so low that dressed beef had to bear an unusual proportion of the processing charges in order that the slaughterers might continue their operations. Thus during the years 1915 to 1919, inclusive, the largest meat-packer paid an average of \$85.23 per head for cattle slaughtered. Receipts from sale of the beef averaged \$73.18 per head, or 85.9 per cent of the amount paid for the live animal. Net receipts from hides and by-products averaged \$21.88 per head, and supplied the rest of the price paid for the live animals, as well as cared for all processing costs, marketing charges, and profits. During 1921 the average amount paid for the live animal was \$67.53, receipts from sale of beef \$75.32, and receipts from by-products \$8.51. The fall in value of by-products, amounting to \$13.37 per head, accounted for 75 per cent of the decline of \$17.70 per head in the value of live cattle in 1921, as compared with the years 1915 to 1919.

A discussion on page 8 of the Tariff Commission's report on hides and skins (1922) merits consideration with respect to this question. It is there pointed out that between 1912 and 1916, inclusive, the price of hides increased 48.9 per cent, and of beef 3.8 per cent, but the price of live cattle advanced 14.3 per cent. It has been just pointed out that for the years 1915 to 1919 the largest packer in the United States paid an average of \$85.23 per head for live cattle slaughtered, sold the beef for \$73.18 per head, and netted \$21.88 per head from hides and

other by-products. The beef was sold, therefore, for 86 per cent of the amount paid for the live animal, and the by-products for about 26 per cent of that amount, giving a net return from beef, hides, and other by-products of approximately 112 per cent of the amount paid for live cattle slaughtered during this period. Since no striking changes occurred in costs or methods of management, these facts may be used to secure a rough check on the effect of changes in hide prices on live-cattle prices between 1912 and 1916. In arriving at such a check, the by-products other than hides may be considered as having increased in price to the same extent as hides. The accuracy of the check will be affected but little, since returns from hides are more than twice as large as returns from the other by-products.

Thus for the period 1912-16 dressed beef rose 3.8 per cent in price, and the returns to the packer were raised by 3.8 per cent of 86. Hides (and other by-products) rose 48.9 per cent. Returns to the packer from this source, then, were increased by 48.9 per cent of 26. Returns from both sources, therefore, amounted to 86 plus 3.8, and 26 plus 12.7, or a total of 128 per cent of 1912 prices for live cattle, as compared with 112 per cent for 1912. The difference, 16, represents the approximate percentage of the 1912 value of live cattle that could be added to the price paid the producer in 1916. The actual increase in the price paid for live cattle was 14.3 per cent, or nearly 90 per cent of the total increase allowable on the basis of these calculations.

Owing to considerations such as have been discussed in the foregoing, it seems evident that, if a duty were placed on hides, most of the increase in value of hides would appear in the prices paid for live cattle. In other words, the producer of the live cattle would get most of the benefit of a duty on hides. The question is: Would he derive a net benefit from such a duty, or would its cost be greater than the direct benefit?

The average farm reporting cattle in 1925 sold 2.5 head per year. If the weight of the average cattle hide is estimated at 50 pounds, a 5-cent duty would mean an addition of \$6.25 to the annual receipts of the average farm reporting cattle, provided that all the duty was passed on to the producer. If the cattle-raiser received 80 per cent of the tariff on hides, his annual return would be increased by \$5. With 3.5 persons over ten years of age in the farm family, and each such person needing 1.5 pairs of work shoes and also a pair of other shoes each year, the annual bill for shoes would be increased by \$4.35 per family—i. e., by 60 cents per pair on work shoes and 40 cents on the other shoes. Harness and other leather goods also would be raised in price, as well as shoes for the small children in the family.

Inasmuch as any tariff law has always been the result of a compromise aiming at a net gain to all the people on all the schedules, the reasonableness of the foregoing statement of the cost of a hide duty to the farmers as a whole may be questioned on the ground that it is the producers of beef cattle who are primarily interested in a duty on hides. On this basis, about 2,000,000 farmers and ranchers, producing about 10,000,000 cattle per year, are involved, or five cattle per producer. These hides average about 55 pounds in weight. With a duty on hides of 5 cents per green pound, and 80 per cent of this duty appearing in the prices paid for live cattle, this means an increase in the producers' receipts of an average of \$11 per year as a result of the duty, as compared with a direct cost for shoes of probably about half as much, and an uncertain further cost owing to advances in the price of other manufactures of leather.

It may be further objected—perhaps with good reason, in view of the bargaining involved in any tariff—that the question

of a duty on hides should be considered from the standpoint of the larger producers of beef cattle, rather than of all these producers, most of whom operate in a small way, frequently breeding beef cattle as a side line. On the average, the larger producers turn off cattle with an average weight of hide of about 60 pounds. With 80 per cent of a 5-cent duty reflected in the prices received for the cattle, this would mean about \$2.40 per head, or \$53.80 on a carload of twenty-two animals. If other factors did not enter the situation, such a producer would derive a net benefit of perhaps as much as 75 per cent of this amount, or 60 per cent of the full duty on hides—i. e., about \$1.80 of the \$3 duty on a 60-pound green hide.

One other highly important factor would be quite sure to enter the situation if a duty were placed on hides. This concerns artificial leather and leather substitutes. When hide prices get too high, competition with these other materials increases, and there was a sweeping change to their use when hide prices began their sharp rise twenty years ago. Pressure from these materials became exceedingly severe during 1928, and is credited with playing an important part in the striking decline of hide prices during the past twelve months. For instance, during the last week of May, 1928, the Chicago price of twelve grades of packer hides averaged 21.5 cents per pound. During the last week of May, 1929, they averaged 14.2 cents—a decline of 7.3 cents per pound, or nearly 50 per cent more than the amount of the duty requested on green hides by many of the cattle-producers. This decline undoubtedly is only temporary, and is now in process of correction, but has occasioned grave concern in the minds of cattlemen and of meat-packers.

To the extent that prices for domestic hides were raised by a duty, the competition with artificial leather and leather substitutes would be sharpened. By depressing hide prices, the net benefit to cattle-producers from the duty on hides would be correspondingly lessened; or, in the case of the average producer, the small net benefit, if any, might be turned into a net loss.

The foregoing is not to be construed as an argument either for or against a duty on hides. It is merely an effort to present the various phases of the question for consideration by those charged with the responsibility for legislation with reference to that question.

## HERE AND THERE IN THE CATTLE ALLEYS

BY JAMES E. POOLE

A SERIES OF DIDOS has been cut by baby-beef heifers recently. Feeders have been puzzled by killers' requirements in such cattle—and well they may be. One week, demand calls for weight; the next week, buyers will have none of it; but quality and condition in combination are always attributes. With heifers going to killers at a range of \$9.50 to \$16 per cwt., the puzzle is obvious. The sensation of the August market was a load of Murdo Mackenzie's Matador yearlings, weighing 733 pounds. When the consignee had them yarded, they presented such a pretty appearance that he asked the first buyer who came along \$16 per cwt. "Weigh 'em!" was the response. "I said sixteen." "Weigh 'em!" No heifers had sold above \$15 previously, which was responsible for the resultant hubbub; but the next day a similar lot realized \$15.75, showing that the buyer knew his cattle. The salesman merely remarked: "You never get what you don't ask for."

However, yearling heifers of the right type, with finish and quality, are popular at the beef-house, emphasizing demand for light cuts of the right kind. It means a continued drain on the calf crop, as feeders are able to pay prices for heifers that breeders cannot consider. Of course, much of the popu-

larity of heifer beef is due to quality attained by the product in recent years. Formerly heifers were penalized \$1.50 to \$2.50 per cwt. merely on account of sex, whereas, under present conditions, killers will ignore 30 per cent of heifers in a load of steers of standard quality. Obsolete methods of appraising heifers savored of larceny.

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The tribe of cattle-buyers represented by "Old Nelse" Morris is well-nigh extinct. At week-ends, following a sharp decline, "Old Nelse" was always in the saddle—or the buggy, to be exact—taking advantage of a bargain sale and facilitating a clearance. Nowadays nobody assumes that task. Once upon a time, Tim Ingwersen, Swift's present head cattle-buyer, suggested to the late G. F. Swift emulation of Morris' tactics, and when the old Israelite found he had competition he said to Tim: "Go easy, Tim! Don't spoil a good game!" For years afterward he chuckled to Ingwersen about "them cheap cattle we got." Present-day buyers have scant latitude in such matters. They fill their order and go to the house. Recently I asked one buyer why he did not operate on a certain weekend, when a considerable number were held over, to realize 75 cents to \$1 per cwt. more on Monday. "Go ask the damp-hools in the beef-house," was the irate response.

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Cattle-scarcity theories fade when the ten principal markets of the country are able to muster 100,000 units on a Monday session, which happened in July. Certain conditions are necessary for such an assemblage, and it may recur this season. To assume that the country is bare of cattle would be absurd, but tonnage is a factor to be reckoned with. That package of 100,000 cattle carried less beef than any similar assemblage at North American markets in many a long day; and yet the bulk of it headed straight for the shambles. The top was excellent, but thin, and the proportion of "yellow-hammers" and other inferior steers, variously dubbed in trade vernacular, large. It would be erroneous to assume that numbers mean production. In fact, the brand of liquidation was stamped all over the run.

Common cattle of commerce cut a large swath in beef supply. Like the impoverished element related in Scripture, they are always with us, in varying numbers according to the season. Forty years of cattle-improvement effort have failed to eliminate, or even substantially reduce, their percentage in the crop. Fat, they make merchantable beef, and during the first five months of the year are popular with killers—a fact of which many feeders have taken advantage. They come from many sources, even the best beef-production areas in the country being responsible, and presumably will continue to come, although high prices have stimulated gathering anything wearing a hide susceptible of conversion into beef, regardless of what kind of beef it may be.

This suggests that the American people must be fond of beef; otherwise they would not accept and pay stiff prices for inferior product. Especially at this season, much of the meat displayed as beef is wretched stuff, and from a cost standpoint uneconomic, as it is actually expensive, contrasted with prices of good beef, not referring to the "blue ribbon" type. Country meat-purveyors foist a large tonnage of this so-called beef on their customers. Not long ago, Sherman P. Houston, the veteran cattle-feeder of Malta Bend, Missouri, discoursing on the subject in a Kansas City hotel lobby, advocated consignment to the rendering-tank of such truck—an impracticable, if desirable, policy. The scrap of beef served in the average restaurant in the guise of steak is of this type, and even the pretentious "two-dollar steak for two" in reputable eating-houses furnishes more exercise than sustenance.

Western Canada had a cattle panic recently. At Winnipeg, Calgary, and other centers of bovine trade, the prop was knocked from under the price-list during the August flurry, the drought being largely responsible, as it insures scarcity of winter feed. The result will be some liquidation, and the appearance of more Canadian cattle on our markets this season than would have been the case otherwise. Any impression that Canada is full of cattle is, however, erroneous. In fact, Toronto and Montreal papers have started a hullabaloo over advancing cost of beef, suggesting that a remedy, from the consumer's standpoint, is an export tax.

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Recurrence of last year's \$16 to \$17 market at Chicago for a handful of finished steers has afforded the newspaper harpies opportunity for grinding out columns of literature on the "high cost of beef." They ignore the great mass of steers selling at \$12 to \$14 per cwt., and the not unpretentious phalanx of \$9 to \$11 grassers, heifers at \$8.50 to \$10, and cows at \$7 to \$8.50 per cwt., the product of which goes directly into distributive channels. Not one beef-eater in a million ever comes in contact with the beef from a \$17 steer. Recently at a beef-steak lunch in a Chicago hotel, where prices are dizzy, a stock-yard man remarked in his address: "I have frequently wondered what they did with the T-bone steaks out of 7-cent cutter cows. This lunch has enlightened me." But the economic writers—and their name is legion—have found in a \$17 steer a prolific theme, demonstrating, to their own satisfaction at least, that the cattle industry has attained a degree of prosperity that effectively removes it from the sphere of observation of Mr. Legge and his co-workers for the advancement of the agrarian community.

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Concerted action by packers manacled by the "Palmer Consent Decree" to clear themselves of its meshes does not necessarily mean intention to go into meat-retailing on an extensive scale, but rather to resume handling of what are known as "unrelated lines." The big packers affected adversely by the Consent Decree could begin retailing meats overnight, by utilizing scores of idle branch houses for that purpose; but the necessary selling force would be numerically strong and correspondingly costly, and such a venture would elicit protest from the great army of meat-retailers and jobbers, a goodly percentage of whom are superfluous. The chain store has affected the retail situation only by increasing the number of distributive agencies, and also the cost incidental to getting meats from the packer's cooler to the ultimate consumer. It might be assumed that competition in the distributing process would cut prices, but in practice it does not work out that way.

#### CLIMATIC CONDITIONS AS AFFECTING FALL TRADE

J. E. P.

**N**ORTHWESTERN RANGE CATTLE TRADE opened the 1929 season minus the somewhat spectacular features that marked its inauguration a year ago. Feeders were not in a reckless buying mood, and grass beef from other sources, notably the Flint Hills area of Kansas and Oklahoma, was abundant, and, measured by the new standard of cattle values, reasonably cheap. The southwestern beef-making season had been favored by nature with an abundance of grass and adequate water, while the repressive hand of drought had been plastered all over the Northwest. Conclusive evidence that cattle are by no means plentiful in the northwestern area is the fact that, despite drought, short grass, and the inevitability

of winter-feed scarcity, few distressed animals showed up at the market in August, and not until the last week of the month did any considerable volume of business report from that quarter at Chicago, St. Paul, or other gateways. On the last Monday of August, Chicago received 5,500 Montanas, but up to that date cattle from that quarter were few.

Writing from Helena late in August, E. A. Phillips, secretary of the Montana Stock Growers' Association, said:

"We are having an exceptionally dry season hereabouts, and shortage of grass and hay in some localities will mean the shipment of more cattle and sheep than would have been loaded out had physical conditions been normal. Many of our stockmen will take the market in preference to paying abnormal prices for winter feed. I look for shipments of considerable volume from the dry areas during September."

Early prices of so-called range, but, actually, pasture, cattle were \$2 to \$3 per cwt. lower than a year ago, at least on paper, although weight and beef condition must be reckoned with, and on this occasion both were decidedly deficient. There are various methods of figuring, and it is obviously absurd to measure prices with those of fat grass cattle at the crest of the boom last September. For instance, one drove of Montana cattle that realized \$14.25 the third week of last September—an Indiana feeder paying the price—sold at \$11 three weeks earlier this year, but they weighed 75 pounds per head less, and were not nearly so fat. As a buyer, who had been stuck on a drove of Montana cattle, remarked: "These westerns are like early-picked watermelons—there's nothing in them; they've got no tallow."

Late August prices on western range cattle, in contradiction to southwesterners, were mainly on a stocker basis, the bulk cashing at \$9 to \$11. Killers took a few from \$12 up, one lot of Montanas, averaging 1,386 pounds, going into beef channels at \$13.50, and part of a load at \$14; but these were well-wintered steers, and not strictly grassers. The run carried a large proportion of cows and heifers, plain in quality and thin in flesh, selling at \$7 to \$9. A string of dry cows from the Sand Hills of Nebraska sold at \$7.50 to \$9.25, with odd head at \$10 to \$10.50. On paper, at least, many western cattle figured \$2.50 per cwt. lower than a year ago, killers getting fat 1,277-pound Montanas at \$12.85 that would have been worth \$14.50 last year. Good 1,075- to 1,150-pound Montanas sold at \$10 to \$10.75.

What the outcome of the northwestern range season will be cannot be predicted. It will depend largely on feeder activity. At the inception of September, southwestern pastures were still full of cattle, the owners of which were intent on getting to market at the earliest opportunity, and, owing to the large proportion of Mexicans in that package, it will be an accession to beef supply. A Mexican steer may lack quality, but fattened on Flint Hills grass he is a better beef proposition than a qualified northwestern bullock lacking tallow, so that the outcome of the season, in a commercial sense, is up to the feeder. There will be an abundance of \$9 to \$10 cattle in beef condition from southwestern grass all season. Beef trade is no longer bewailing a shortage of common beef, as was the case a few weeks back, but a dearth of the so-called blue-ribbon type.

The southwestern grazing area has been more fortunate, in a physical sense, than the northern this season. Even dry Arizona has been relieved, and in Texas the situation has not elicited serious complaint. Writing from Canadian, Texas, late in August, C. A. Studer, the Anvil Park Hereford man, said:

"We had a six-weeks' dry spell, but it has been broken over most of the grazing area. We had three to five inches of rain over most of the Panhandle early in August, and while it was not general, in the exact sense of the term, most areas were wetted down."

My own opinion is that the range-cattle market will pick up about the time it ran into foul weather in 1928. September is the doubtful period, as southwestern pastures will ship constantly and heavily, keeping beef outlet channels full of low-grade product in excellent condition, if lacking quality. Finished cattle may be scarce, but all summer every 50-cent advance in prices has attracted excessive supplies of short-fed and warmed-up bullocks, illustrating the fact that, when grassers and short-feds come into competition at the market, both suffer. Of medium and common beef there has been abundance all summer, and will continue to be, as the country is bullish on corn and lacks confidence in the immediate future of the cattle market. During August an incredible number of steers in little better than fleshy feeder condition were thrown overboard, selling at \$11.50 to \$12.50 per cwt., that would have been carried sixty days longer but for dollar corn. They were the type of steers which feeders were taking away from killers a year ago, some of them being still in feeders' hands that cost \$14 to \$14.50 at that period. But for premature liquidation of short-feds and the huge gob of Mexicans coming out of southwestern pastures, a different story concerning the summer and fall cattle market would have been written.

#### BEEF HERDS FOR INDIANA FARMS

RISING BEEF CALVES for the home feed-lot is again coming into vogue in Indiana. This system of beef production, generally practiced by the early Hoosier farmers, fell into disuse in the nineties, when dairying and pork production assumed increased importance. During the World War the high price of land and the greatly expanded demand for cereals resulted in the conviction that keeping land in grass for the maintenance of beef cows was uneconomical. Since the war, however, both corn acreage and hog numbers have declined, and farmers have again become interested in calf-raising.

With the return to the custom of beef-calf production, the question of the cost of keeping a beef cow for a year became of significance. Consequently an extension project of keeping feed records was inaugurated. One set of records, presented at a meeting of farmers in Parke County in December, 1928, showed that it had cost \$23.36 to feed each cow during the previous year. Of this amount, \$14.03 represented cost of winter feed, and \$9.33 pasture cost. The calves were appraised by the farmers present at \$55 per head. Grass pasture, it was brought out, furnished the only feed from May to December, while the winter feed consisted of low-grade roughage, such as stalk pasture, oat straw, clover chaff, and soy-bean straw, supplemented with silage and clover hay.

Another set of records showed a feed cost per cow of \$24.16, and per calf of \$25.70. Average spread between feed cost per calf raised and the appraised value per weanling calf was \$23.56.

"The management of the calf crop varies greatly on the various farms where records have been completed," says P. T. Brown, of the Indiana Extension Service, in the June number of the *Extension Animal Husbandman*, a monthly issued jointly by the Bureau of Animal Industry and the Office of Co-operative Extension Work. "The most common method is to run spring calves with the cows during the summer, fatten them during the winter, and sell them in the spring when they are one year old. Another system that has several advocates is to stock the spring calves through their first winter, grass them through their second summer, fatten them during their second winter, and sell them in the spring when they are two years old. Other farmers feed their calves through the first winter, full-feed them on grass during the second summer, and sell them during the fall when they are about eighteen months old. There are still other farmers (and their

number is increasing) who feed their calves while they are nursing. These farmers have very early calves, which are either kept in the barn and fed during the summer or are creep-fed in the pasture. About September 1 these calves are weaned and full-fed until December 1, and sold as fat calves weighing 650 pounds or better. One such farmer last year sold his steer calves December 11 on the Indianapolis market for \$102.51 per head net. They were all nine months old, except one early calf which was just one year old when sold."

The cow-and-calf system in Indiana, according to Mr. Brown, offers the following advantages: It (1) insures a supply of feeding calves at minimum cost; (2) provides a market for cheap and otherwise unmarketable roughage; (3) avoids loss of calf fat, shipping fever, and shrinkage on feeding calves; (4) encourages the growing of grass, which conserves soil fertility and reduces erosion; (5) removes to a large extent the speculative element in cattle-feeding and fits well into a diversified farm-management scheme.

#### THE WORLD'S LIVE-STOCK POPULATION

WE PRESENT HEREWITH our annual tabulation of the world's live stock—the last before the returns of the universal census, to be taken next year under the direction of the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome, will become available. This may not be until early in 1931. When the official figures from the whole world are published, we shall have a thoroughly dependable basis for comparisons, which is now lacking. Many of the data at present are of altogether too old a vintage to be of much use except as an indicator. Others are mere guesswork. After the census of 1930, it is to be hoped, the importance of keeping statistics reasonably up to date will have been sufficiently impressed upon the governments of the principal countries to assure us of an accurate live-stock inventory at least every five years.

Confining our deductions to the countries that play a part in the international beef trade, either as exporters or as importers, it appears from the table that no radical change in cattle numbers has taken place during the past year. Europe and the United States show a slight increase, while Canada, Argentina, and Australia have somewhat fewer. The decline of 2,650,000 in the case of Argentina is due to the fact that an estimate has recently been published placing the figure for 1928 that much below the census of 1923, which we have hitherto used. Lately there has been a movement among Argentine ruralists away from cattle to sheep or grain, for which tendency unsatisfactory prices of beef in Great Britain, more rigid sanitary regulations by the Argentine government in an effort to stamp out foot-and-mouth disease, and perhaps also to some extent waning hope of access to the tempting United States market are to be held responsible. As it is, the world's cattle numbers today exceed those of the pre-war period by roundly 65,000,000 head, having thus in a measure kept pace with the growth of human population.

Favorable prices of both wool and lamb during the past few years have acted as a powerful stimulus on sheep-breeding. The increase in flocks since last year is everywhere marked. There are, however, signs that we are approaching the top of the cycle, and that from now on the growth may be less pronounced. Consumption of mutton is a factor that in many parts of the world is not subject to material expansion, and, with prevailing fashions in clothes, the day may be near at hand when fabric-makers will have no difficulty in securing enough raw material.

A notable reduction in hog numbers has occurred in most producing countries. Swine, more than any other class of

## THE WORLD'S LIVE STOCK

COUNTRIES	YEAR	CATTLE	SHEEP	SWINE	COUNTRIES	YEAR	CATTLE	SHEEP	SWINE
<b>EUROPE—</b>									
Austria.....	1923	2,163,000	597,000	1,473,000	Argentina.....	1928	34,410,000	36,209,000	1,437,000
Belgium.....	1928	1,751,000	126,000	1,139,000	Bahamas.....	1925	.....	21,000	.....
Bulgaria.....	1925	*1,560,000	8,682,000	574,000	Bolivia.....	1927	2,320,000	4,220,000	114,000
Czechoslovakia.....	1925	4,691,000	861,000	2,539,000	Brazil.....	1927	57,521,000	7,933,000	18,400,000
Denmark.....	1928	3,021,000	233,000	3,360,000	Canada.....	1928	8,793,000	3,416,000	4,497,000
Estonia.....	1927	634,000	667,000	354,000	Chile.....	1925	1,918,000	4,094,000	247,000
Finland.....	1927	1,872,000	1,368,000	418,000	Colombia.....	1926	6,500,000	771,000	1,400,000
France.....	1927	14,941,000	10,693,000	6,019,000	Costa Rica.....	1925	433,000	1,000	71,000
Germany.....	1928	18,386,000	3,626,000	20,072,000	Cuba.....	1926	3,783,000	.....	.....
Great Britain.....	1928	7,235,000	23,891,000	3,162,000	Curacao.....	1923	3,000	31,000	5,000
Greece.....	1927	*947,000	6,442,000	453,000	Dominican Republic.....	1924	701,000	162,000	1,020,000
Hungary.....	1928	*1,812,000	1,566,000	2,662,000	Ecuador.....	1926	1,280,000	700,000	.....
Iceland.....	1925	25,000	558,000	.....	Falkland Islands.....	1927	8,000	607,000	.....
Ireland, North and South.....	1928	4,878,000	3,948,000	1,400,000	Guatemala.....	1927	260,000	155,000	51,000
Italy.....	1927	*7,400,000	12,500,000	2,850,000	Guiana, British.....	1925	135,000	29,000	12,000
Latvia.....	1928	960,000	1,090,000	535,000	Guiana, Dutch.....	1924	16,000	.....	6,000
Lithuania.....	1927	1,128,000	1,365,000	1,010,000	Honduras.....	1919	466,000	.....	23,000
Luxemburg.....	1928	98,000	10,000	127,000	Jamaica.....	1925	133,000	8,000	32,000
Netherlands.....	1921	2,063,000	668,000	1,519,000	Mexico.....	1926	5,585,000	2,698,000	2,903,000
Norway.....	1928	1,221,000	1,654,000	283,000	Newfoundland.....	1911	40,000	100,000	28,000
Poland.....	1927	8,602,000	1,918,000	6,333,000	Nicaragua.....	1921	1,200,000	.....	.....
Portugal.....	1927	768,000	4,450,000	1,117,000	Panama.....	1919	217,000	.....	30,000
Rumania.....	1927	*4,744,000	12,941,000	3,076,000	Paraguay.....	1926	3,270,000	195,000	45,000
Russia, European.....	1927	43,835,000	73,891,000	15,829,000	Peru.....	1927	1,293,000	12,000,000	429,000
Spain.....	1926	3,688,000	20,529,000	5,032,000	Porto Rico.....	1925	144,000	.....	.....
Sweden.....	1925	2,100,000	1,200,000	1,100,000	Salvador.....	1917	230,000	40,000	220,000
Switzerland.....	1926	1,587,000	189,000	635,000	United States.....	1929	57,863,000	47,621,000	57,594,000
Yugoslavia.....	1928	*3,654,000	7,722,000	2,663,000	Uruguay.....	1927	8,432,000	22,500,000	251,000
Total Europe.....		145,796,000	203,365,000	85,734,000	Venezuela.....	1922	2,778,000	113,000	512,000
					Total America.....		199,732,000	143,624,000	89,327,000
<b>AFRICA—</b>									
Algeria.....	1928	887,000	5,614,000	96,000	<b>ASIA—</b>				.....
Basutoland.....	1926	645,000	2,149,000	.....	Arabia.....	1927	.....	3,500,000	.....
Bechuanaland.....	1926	518,000	152,000	.....	Ceylon.....	1927	*1,537,000	62,000	59,000
Cameroon, British.....	1924	14,000	28,000	8,000	China.....	1916	21,997,000	22,232,000	76,819,000
Cameroon, French.....	1927	332,000	†456,000	8,000	Cyprus.....	1926	291,000	207,000	39,000
Congo, Belgian.....	1926	465,000	285,000	.....	East Indies, Dutch.....	1926	4,343,000	1,407,000	783,000
Egypt.....	1927	*1,497,000	1,232,000	21,000	Formosa.....	1926	*383,000	.....	1,435,000
Equatorial Africa, French.....	1924	1,001,000	1,126,000	.....	India, British.....	1926	119,492,000	23,237,000	22,895,000
Eritrea, Italian.....	1927	553,000	†1,842,000	.....	India, Native States.....	1925	15,109,000	11,848,000	.....
Gold Coast.....	1925	85,000	†325,000	.....	Indo-China, French.....	1926	3,099,000	26,000	742,000
Kenya Colony.....	1927	3,476,000	†2,842,000	9,000	Iraq.....	1926	.....	†5,955,000	.....
Libia.....	1925	34,000	415,000	.....	Japan.....	1926	1,460,000	17,000	673,000
Madagascar.....	1926	7,140,000	116,000	406,000	Korea.....	1927	1,595,000	2,000	1,221,000
Morocco, French.....	1927	2,200,000	7,712,000	60,000	Palestine.....	1927	92,000	243,000	.....
Nigeria, British.....	1926	3,162,000	1,827,000	.....	Persia.....	1924	1,000,000	†4,000,000	.....
Nyassaland.....	1923	118,000	95,000	30,000	Philippine Islands.....	1927	874,000	395,000	8,811,000
Rhodesia, Northern and Southern.....	1926	2,252,000	347,000	27,000	Russia, Asiatic.....	1927	16,018,000	†21,114,000	3,780,000
Somaliland, Italian.....	1921	1,246,000	1,566,000	.....	Siam.....	1926	3,872,000	.....	864,000
South Africa, Union of.....	1927	10,412,000	40,694,000	848,000	Straits Settlements.....	1925	.....	.....	267,000
Southwest Africa, British.....	1926	621,000	1,252,000	.....	Syria and Lebanon.....	1926	243,000	1,334,000	.....
Sudan, Anglo-Egyptian.....	1926	1,500,000	2,010,000	56,000	Turkey, Asiatic and European.....	1927	5,135,000	13,512,000	.....
Sudan, French.....	1927	1,215,000	2,400,000	.....	Total Asia.....		196,540,000	109,091,000	118,388,000
Swaziland.....	1924	270,000	77,000	9,000	<b>OCEANIA—</b>				.....
Tanganyika Territory.....	1927	4,472,000	†4,779,000	.....	Australia.....	1928	11,306,000	104,265,000	878,000
Tunisia.....	1927	396,000	2,142,000	13,000	Fiji Islands.....	1924	57,000	1,000	2,000
Uganda.....	1926	1,338,000	911,000	.....	Hawaii.....	1926	.....	25,000	.....
West Africa, French.....	1926	2,313,000	3,968,000	.....	New Zealand.....	1928	3,274,000	27,134,000	587,000
Zanzibar.....	1926	20,000	.....	Total Oceania.....		14,637,000	131,425,000	1,467,000	
Total Africa.....		48,182,000	86,362,000	1,591,000	GRAND TOTALS.....		604,887,000	673,867,000	296,507,000

\*Includes buffaloes.

†Includes goats.

## SUMMARY

GRAND DIVISIONS	CATTLE			SHEEP			SWINE		
	Last Census	Previous Census	Pre-War	Last Census	Previous Census	Pre-War	Last Census	Previous Census	Pre-War
United States.....	57,863,000	57,808,000	58,471,000	47,621,000	44,995,000	50,110,000	57,594,000	61,607,000	60,221,000
America (including United States).....	199,732,000	201,927,000	160,725,000	143,624,000	126,654,000	156,104,000	89,327,000	93,532,000	89,965,000
Europe.....	145,796,000	144,499,000	137,966,000	203,365,000	201,709,000	168,795,000	85,734,000	88,673,000	85,075,000
Asia.....	196,540,000	190,187,000	190,027,000	109,091,000	108,194,000	121,783,000	118,388,000	117,651,000	140,853,000
Africa.....	48,182,000	45,281,000	37,964,000	86,362,000	83,667,000	78,755,000	1,591,000	1,540,000	1,999,000
Oceania.....	14,637,000	15,322,000	13,584,000	131,425,000	122,128,000	109,862,000	1,467,000	1,502,000	1,154,000
GRAND TOTALS.....	604,887,000	597,216,000	540,266,000	673,867,000	642,652,000	635,299,000	296,507,000	302,898,000	319,056,000

live stock, have the faculty of adapting themselves readily to price fluctuations, and the depressed markets of 1928 have had the effect of promptly checking production. Contrary to what is the case with cattle and sheep, swine everywhere, except in certain countries of Europe, show a considerable drop from the period before the war.

With respect to the figures for the United States, we wish to explain that they are the estimates of our Department of Agriculture of live stock on farms as of January 1, 1929, to which we have added live stock not on farms according to the census of 1920. In several of the countries of Europe that have annual censuses, these are held on the last day of the year, and thus appear as of 1928. In reality, there is a difference of only a day, instead of a year, between these and the United States figures for 1929.

### RANGE RIGHTS

UNDER THIS HEADING the *Country Gentleman* for March deals with the policy of the Forest Service in redistributing grazing privileges on the national forests. The object of the article (which, we understand, was written by the late Richard Dillon, of Sedalia, Colorado), it is stated by the editor, is to open up the subject for a full and fair discussion of all the elements involved. The editorial follows:

"More than twenty years ago the government Forest Service began its policy of redistributing range rights in the national forests—a policy affecting eleven western states and directly involving thousands of ranch properties and millions of dollars of invested capital. Indirectly every citizen has been affected; for the national forests contain our future timber supply, and perform the valuable function of controlling potential flood waters and preserving them for use in irrigation.

"From the first the policy of redistribution has met with the determined opposition of established live-stock producers dependent upon the national forests for summer range. It is well, therefore, to inquire whether the redistribution policy has been a wise one.

"Upon the advisability of using the national forests as grazing areas there has never been debate. Unless consumed by cattle or sheep, each summer's grass crop would not only constitute a great economic waste, but would become a tremendous fire menace. The only question involved is: What sort of government sanction should be given the range-user?

"The Forest Service has held that, as the government range belongs to the general public, it should be made available to as large a number of users as possible. It has constituted itself champion of the 'little' man, and has endeavored to redistribute grazing privileges in such a way as to encourage small producers to take up live-stock growing and to utilize the government range. In this policy it has had the support of conservationists, who have held that a recognition of definite right to graze through relinquishment of the theory of redistribution might wreck the whole policy of conservation. There is reason to doubt whether their policy will achieve the ends desired, and whether serious injustice is not being worked upon thousands of western stockmen.

"Long before the policy of redistribution began, ranches adjacent to the government forests had been acquired by homesteading and by purchase. Their owners had found that, on account of the short growing season in the high mountain sections, hay was the only practicable crop; also, that hay was valueless until converted into cattle or sheep, distance from railroads and high freight rates rendering its sale out of the question. Stock-growing meant carrying a herd of breeding animals throughout the year, and the ranchmen had adopted the policy of turning their herds and flocks into the government forests for the summer, and of using their own summer hay crop as feed for the winter months. Each ranch had become in reality but one-half of a complete agricultural unit.

"Production had become adjusted on this basis, and part of the value of each ranch consisted of the customary range rights which went with it. Ranches were bought and sold on the assumption that these range rights would not be revoked.

Without them many ranches would not have been large enough to support a family.

"Into this institution came the Forest Service with its policy of redistribution. Range rights were whittled down and redistributed to encourage new settlement. Many new settlers took up ranches, but many old settlers found the value of their ranch investment diminishing and their ability to run live stock profitably disappearing. Their protests were bitter and vigorous. In turn, new settlers of thrift and ability, who had originally profited by the new policy, increased their holdings and their range right, only to find themselves in turn likewise menaced by the threat of redistribution. These, too, joined the protesters.

"In justice to the Forest Service, it must here be said, however, that no complaint concerning its activities has ever arisen among the stockmen, except in regard to redistribution and on the question of grazing fees. The relations between the western forest officers and protesting stock-growers are apparently of the friendliest. Through the influence of these officers, the forest regulations have been continually modified to approach the stockmen's claims. The policy of granting ten-year, non-reducible permits has been adopted. However, there has been no recognition of definite rights to graze, and the Forest Service has not given up the policy of virtually determining, through its power to grant and revoke range rights, the size of the economic unit each live-stock grower may maintain.

"The absence of definite and irrevocable rights to graze has created a damaging uncertainty in regard to property values, and has had a paralyzing effect upon skill, thrift, and initiative. No man knows when, at the end of a ten-year period, his range permit may be reduced, and no man knows whether the new lands his hard work and self-denial have acquired may be rendered valueless to him through denial of use of their range supplement.

"It would seem that the matter of abandoning the policy of further redistribution of range rights could well be considered, and the problem of granting more or less permanent permits—with, of course, ample restrictions to provide for watershed protection and timber conservation—be taken up. Such permits would promote the last two considerations rather than otherwise. Prosperous ranchmen are likely to have less incentive to timber destruction than a multitude of small grazers barely eking out an existence and without certainty of tenure.

"In the past twenty years of redistribution any unfair inequalities in the use of the range should have been eliminated, and monopoly is hardly more likely to result from recognizing range rights as property than has resulted from giving such recognition to water rights, as has always been done in this country. Irrigated properties have not gravitated into the hands of a few, but have gradually evolved into units of the size which can be operated most efficiently. The same would more than likely occur in the case of ranch lands dependent upon the government range, were the redistribution policy abandoned. Such abandonment would mark the end of a policy dangerously bureaucratic and communistic, regardless of the excellence of its motives and the high caliber of the officers appointed to enforce it."

### RAILROAD EARNINGS

WHILE GROSS REVENUES of Class I railroads for the six months ending June, 1929, were slightly lower than those for the corresponding period of 1928, net operating income, due to the rigid economies practiced, were the largest for the first half of the year ever recorded, according to *Bradstreet's*. We present the figures for 1929 and 1928 here-with:

	1929	1928
Gross revenues .....	\$3,063,123,880	\$2,911,402,603
Operating expenses .....	2,245,814,800	2,208,787,092
Taxes .....	195,877,964	182,705,783
Net operating income .....	563,347,135	462,227,525
Operating ratio (per cent) .....	73.32	75.87
Rate of return (per cent) .....	5.54	4.62

Six railroads in the eastern district, two in the southern district, and nine in the western district operated at a loss.

## BRAND INSPECTION AT PORTLAND

**I**N A PROCEEDING under the Packers and Stock-Yards Act, brought against the Portland Union Stock Yards Company, Oregon, by an Idaho shipper, complaining that the charge of 8 cents per head for inspection of brands on horses and cattle was exorbitant and unlawful, a decision has been rendered by Acting Secretary of Agriculture Dunlap, holding 5 cents a head to be a fair charge, awarding reparation to the shipper, and ordering the Stock Yards Company not to demand any charge for brand inspection unless specifically authorized to do so by the Secretary of Agriculture.

On the question of legality, the acting secretary says that the Appropriation Act for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1930, contains a provision empowering the secretary to authorize the collection of an inspection fee, upon request of the board of live-stock commissioners or the duly organized live-stock association in the states in which the live stock originated. Such requests had been made by the Cattle and Horse Raisers' Association of Oregon and the Washington State Cattle and Horse Raisers' Association, asking that the fee be collected on live stock shipped to Portland. Authorization had been granted, and the Portland Union Stock Yards Company had filed a tariff covering the service.

## YARDAGE CHARGES AT NASHVILLE

**O**N MAY 9, 1929, the Nashville Union Stock Yards filed a schedule of rates increasing yardage charges on all classes of live stock, with the exception of horses and mules. These new rates were suspended by the Secretary of Agriculture, and an inquiry was ordered into the reasonableness of all charges. The hearing was held in Nashville from July 1 to 8, and arguments were presented on July 30. On August 2 the secretary's ruling was rendered.

Increases in yardage charges were allowed somewhat lower than those asked for, which would have produced a net operating income in 1928 greater by \$1,500 than that received under the existing schedule. The spread between the price paid by the yard company and that charged shippers for hay was reduced from \$1.64 to 70 cents a hundredweight, and on corn from 81 to 50 cents a bushel,

## RECOMMENDATION FOR DISMISSAL OF SOUTHWESTERN RATE COMPLAINT

**A** REPORT submitted to the Interstate Commerce Commission by Examiner J. Edgar Smith, made public on August 21, recommends that the complaint of the railroad regulatory bodies of Arizona and New Mexico, filed July 26, 1926, alleging that class rates between points in these two states and points in other states are "unjust, unreasonable, unjustly discriminatory, and unduly prejudicial," be dismissed.

"It is not plain," says the report, "that Arizona and western New Mexico, regardless of the technical showing made, are entitled to any rate treatment which would be preferential to them over their sister-states to the north."

## PRINCIPAL BEEF-GROWING COUNTRIES

**L**ADING IN EXPORTS OF BEEF during 1927 were the following seven countries, according to figures issued by the Department of Agriculture and summarized in the *Monthly Letter to Animal Husbandmen* published by Armour's Live Stock Bureau:

	Net Exports (Pounds)
Argentina	1,838,428,000
Uruguay	347,264,000
Australia	205,509,000
New Zealand	104,712,000
United States	89,970,000
Netherlands	79,451,000
Canada	58,730,000

From the same source we quote the below table, showing the number of cattle for each thousand of human population for the periods 1909-13 and 1920-25:

	1909-13	1920-25
Argentina	3,460	4,260
Australia	2,532	2,536
New Zealand	1,886	2,643
Canada	909	1,093
United States	638	619
France	387	346
Germany	285	280
Russia	283	335
Great Britain	263	253

## WYOMING-MONTANA STOCKMEN ORGANIZE

**P**ROTECTION FOR THE LIVE-STOCK INTERESTS of northern Wyoming and southern Montana was the keynote of a meeting of cattlemen from that territory held in Sheridan, Wyoming, last month. As an upshot of the conference, a new organization, to be called the Wyoming-Montana Live Stock Protective Association, was formed, and it was decided to appoint a brand inspector immediately. Willis Spear was elected president of the association.

## PALATABILITY OF MEAT

**W**HAT HAS BEEN DONE in the way of tracing the factors influencing the quality and palatability of meat was reviewed at a conference in Chicago on August 14-16, in which representatives of the Department of Agriculture, the Institute of American Meat Packers, the National Live Stock and Meat Board, which is sponsoring the investigations, and the twenty-two state agricultural colleges which are actively engaged in the study, took part.

During the more than three years that this work has been in progress, much has been done toward determining the effect of feeding, sex, age, degree of finish or fatness, and other elements on the color, texture, and general eating qualities of meat. The experiments involve measurement of such characteristics as tenderness, connective tissue content, muscle structure, nature of proteins, etc. Attention has been given to the best way of processing and cooking the different cuts, and to developing a standard for the identification of odors for use in cooking. Another important subject which has been considered is that of publishing a dictionary of cooking terms, in the use of which a wide variance has been discovered.

## REDUCTION IN CROP FORECAST

**C**ONTINUED DROUGHT over most of the territory between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains during August had a depressing effect on the prospect for the corn harvest, as well as on such other crops as are not as yet beyond the influence of the weather. The extent of this reduction in estimated yields will not be evident until the government report for the current month is available. Meanwhile the forecast dated August 1 reflects the favorable atmospheric

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conditions prevailing throughout the Corn Belt in July, and shows a betterment in the corn outlook over the previous report by 3 per cent. Spring wheat, oats, barley, rye, hay, potatoes, and most fruits, on the other hand, present decreases from the last estimate.

Corn at the beginning of August promised a crop about 95,000,000 bushels under that of last year. Winter wheat was about the same as in 1928, while spring wheat figured with a reduction of 118,000,000 bushels. Oats indicated a harvest 247,000,000 bushels less than last year, and barley 52,000,000 bushels less. Potatoes fell below last year's bumper crop by 25 per cent.

The following table shows production of the most important farming crops, as indicated by condition on August 1, compared with final harvest figures for 1928:

	1929 Forecast	1928 Harvest
Winter wheat (bu.)	568,233,000	578,133,000
Spring wheat (bu.)	205,652,000	323,785,000
All wheat (bu.)	773,885,000	901,918,000
Corn (bu.)	2,740,514,000	2,835,678,000
Oats (bu.)	1,202,895,000	1,449,531,000
Rye (bu.)	41,028,000	41,766,000
Barley (bu.)	304,381,000	356,667,000
Potatoes (bu.)	373,000,000	464,500,000
Hay, tame (tons)	97,421,000	93,031,000
Hay, wild (tons)	12,413,000	12,922,000
Cotton (bales)	15,543,000	14,373,000

Canada's wheat crop is estimated at 230,000,000 bushels, or barely half of last year's. The yield in fifteen European countries is somewhat less than 6 per cent below that of 1928.

#### Heavy Exports of Mexican Cattle

Exports of Mexican cattle to the United States are reported to have been heavy lately, due to rebel activity, good prices obtained, and the possibility of an increase in American import duties. In May, 1929, there were imported into the United States from Mexico 40,286 head of cattle, as against 23,097 from Canada.

#### THE CALENDAR

September 30-October 6, 1929—Annual Dairy Cattle Congress and National Belgian Horse Show, Waterloo, Iowa.  
 October 12-19, 1929—Annual Convention of National Dairy Association, St. Louis, Mo.  
 October 26-November 2, 1929—Pacific International Live Stock Exposition, Portland, Ore.  
 November 1-8, 1929—Ak-Sar-Ben Live Stock Show, Omaha, Neb.  
 November 9-13, 1929—California Live Stock and Baby Beef Show, San Francisco, Cal.  
 November 11-14, 1929—Kansas National Live Stock Show, Wichita, Kan.  
 November 16-23, 1929—American Royal Live Stock Show, Kansas City, Mo.  
 November 30-December 7, 1929—International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago, Ill.  
 November 30-December 7, 1929—Christmas Live Stock Show, Los Angeles, Cal.  
 December 19-20, 1929—Annual Convention of Colorado Stock Growers' Association, Denver, Colo.  
 January 11-16, 1930—Ogden Live Stock Show, Ogden, Utah.  
 January 16-18, 1930—Thirty-third Annual Convention of American National Live Stock Association, Denver, Colo.  
 January 18-25, 1930—National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colo.  
 March 3-5, 1930—Annual Convention of Panhandle Live Stock Association, Amarillo, Tex.  
 March 9-15, 1930—Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, Fort Worth, Tex.  
 March 17-23, 1930—Southwest American Live Stock Show, Oklahoma City, Okla.

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Volume XI SEPTEMBER, 1929 Number 4

## SHOULD MEAT BE ADVERTISED?

**S**INCE THE CONVENTION of the American National Live Stock Association at San Francisco early in February, when funds were pledged for the beef-demonstration campaign—now in full swing under the joint auspices of the breed associations, the beef-packers, the Meat Board, and the National Association—the question of more adequately financing the Meat Board has been discussed pro and con at all stockmen's gatherings, as well as at many special meetings, more particularly of feeders in Iowa and Nebraska. Various schemes have been suggested, calling for donations on the part of the producer all the way from 10 cents a car (double the present assessment) to 10 cents a head on cattle, with corresponding rates on other live stock.

Although up to the present time the packers have matched the assessment paid by the producers, and it was assumed, when first proposed that the assessment be increased, that they would continue to do so, it has now been clearly indicated that they will not—at least if an expensive advertising program is undertaken. Their refusal is based on the large amount now being expended by them for advertising. Just what their attitude will be if the first step is a moderate advance is not known.

The question which must be decided is whether best results can be obtained by broadening the Meat Board's present program of research, demonstrations, and educational work, or whether it will soon be necessary to launch a national advertising campaign to counteract the forces responsible for the decreasing consumption of meat. Many have advocated a gradual expansion; but, beyond certain limits, a choice between the two programs does not permit of a year-by-year increase. No doubt the Meat Board could advantageously expend several times its present income along the lines now being followed, giving it ample funds to push meat-demonstration work as at present conducted to such excellent advantage. Beyond that point, a real jump must be taken to provide sufficient money for an adequate advertising campaign.

It must be remembered that part of the decline in consumption of beef is due to high prices following the disastrous liquidation period. We have today no surplus problem confronting us. In fact, we are now importing considerable quantities of dressed and canned beef, and in 1928 we shipped in something over 500,000 live cattle. Indications are that our production has turned upward, and it is encouraging to note so much interest in the matter well in advance of any possible acute situation. We are making progress.

At a meeting held in Omaha August 9, feeders expressed themselves as being in favor of collecting 25 cents per car from the producer, with truck and direct shipments paying in proportion. This, it was estimated, would yield something like \$175,000. In addition, it was suggested that the packers contribute a flat sum of \$100,000. In deference to those favoring the other plan, no definite action was taken, but Chairman Hopley, of Atlantic, Iowa, was authorized to appoint a committee of five to ascertain sentiment among producers, confer with the packers and the Meat Board, and report its findings at a second meeting to be held at Omaha during the first week in November, in connection with the Ak-Sar-Ben Stock Show.

Many present at this meeting expressed themselves as willing to pay a larger assessment, but were afraid that the country was not sufficiently educated or prepared for it. Payment of such an assessment is purely voluntary. For the success of any enlarged plan, it is essential that every party to it be thoroughly "sold" on the idea, and that every means possible be taken of reaching the people who pay the money, and interesting them in the work. The commission men are an important link in the transaction, and their full co-operation is imperative.

The feeder, by virtue of his profession, is next to the market, and on him will fall the heavy end of the load. It has been suggested that, as feeder cattle and sheep move direct from producer to feed-lot, half the

assessment be deducted; but this is a detail difficult to arrange, and the deduction will be overlooked more times than collected.

For this reason, the range interests ought to be willing to indorse any plan which is approved by the feeders. Packers can afford to be liberal in making their contribution. It is to be hoped that action may be taken before the December meeting of the Meat Board, so that the plan can be put in definite shape for consideration at the conventions of the various live-stock associations next winter. At the Meat Board meeting steps should be taken to reorganize and somewhat enlarge that body, so as to command the broadest possible support.

Much credit is due those who have untiringly worked to the end that the Meat Board may broaden its work, and that consumption may be increased to take care of the indicated increase in production, thus avoiding a disastrous price slump. Due to their efforts, more producers than ever before are today informed of the work of the Meat Board, and are interested in the future. Many have not been reached, however, and the educational program must be kept up. Aside from the direct issue involved, the Omaha meeting resulted in a permanent organization, to be known as the Interstate Live Stock Feeders' and Growers' Association. It is quite possible that similar organizations may follow among eastern feeders, who hitherto have been largely unorganized.

Whatever the immediate outcome—and, fortunately, the disposition is to weigh the matter carefully and work out a sound program—it seems apparent that live-stock producers are getting themselves organized as never before to stand behind their product. If the first plan adopted does not fully meet the situation, they will be ready for the next step with a minimum of delay.

We invite expressions from our readers as to their thoughts on the subject.

### THE CONSENT DECREE

THE LONG-HERALDED DRIVE against the Packers' Consent Decree was initiated on August 10, when Armour and Swift filed petitions in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia for its modification. The petitions seek cancellation of those provisions which prohibit the four big packing concerns from owning and operating retail meat markets; owning capital stock or other interest in public stock-yards or terminal railroads; manufacturing or dealing in commodities unrelated to the meat industry, or owning an interest in any firm dealing in such commodities; using, or permitting others to use, their distributive facilities, including branch houses, route cars, and auto trucks, for the purpose of dealing in

unrelated articles; and leasing or disposing of any item of their distributive systems.

As reasons for their petition, it is urged by Armour & Co. that, owing to "fundamental changes in marketing conditions of food products, including meat food products," and changes in the statutory laws of the United States, the provisions of the decree are "altogether unnecessary for the maintenance of competitive conditions and the prevention of monopoly in the manufacture, sale, and distribution of the food products mentioned in said decree;" that such provisions have become "unduly oppressive, restrictive, and burdensome, and, in fact, an actual menace to the conduct and development of the business of these defendants under such changed marketing conditions, and consequently to the live-stock industry as a whole."

Among the changes in marketing conditions referred to are (1) "the phenomenal development of food chain stores;" (2) the entry of chain stores into the meat business, "including the manufacturing, processing, and retailing of meats;" (3) the engagement of packer competitors, not subject to the decree, in the retail marketing of fresh meats; (4) the decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission that the practice of the defendants of loading certain grocery articles in their peddler and branch-house cars "was not shown to result in undue prejudice to the wholesale grocers;" and (5) the enactment of the Packers and Stock-Yards Act, placing the defendants under the supervision of the Secretary of Agriculture.

The resolution passed at the mid-year meeting of the American National Live Stock Association in Salt Lake City in August, 1921, is quoted. Herein the association placed itself on record "as favoring the entrance into the retail meat trade of the Big Five [now four], in order that the present system be placed on a more economical basis," and urged "all packers not affected by the said decree to engage in the retail trade."

Resolutions passed by the National Association and twenty-six other live-stock organizations during the current year, running all the way from favoring modification of the provision prohibiting the packers from engaging in the retail meat trade to rescission of the decree in its entirety, are reproduced.

The petition has been set for hearing in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia on October 2. Meanwhile the Secretary of Agriculture, on request of the Attorney-General of the United States, has invited representatives of agricultural interests throughout the country to meet in Washington on September 3, to present their views on the proposed modification and to confer with him on its probable economic effect. Written statements by producers may be submitted not later than September 16.

\* \* \*

The attitude of the American National Live Stock Association with respect to the Consent Decree has been consistent and clear. Repeatedly at its conventions it has adopted resolutions advocating a change that would permit the packers to sell meat at retail. Such retail selling has been regarded as a reform not only fully in line with present economic evolution, but promising benefits at both ends of the marketing chain, and has been urged by producers long before the decree was ever entered. The unprecedented development of chain-store systems, some of which are now

operating slaughtering establishments of their own, combined with the fact that packers not involved in the decree are free to deal both in meat at retail and in "unrelated" lines, has only served to emphasize the anomaly of the Big Four being shackled by an instrument, having the effect of law, that would forbid them to do what their competitors are allowed to do.

THE PRODUCER hopes that the present desire of the big packers to make use of their gigantic distribution facilities in the retailing of meats is genuine enough, and not simply, as has been suggested, a stratagem to secure the support of live-stock organizations toward the abrogation of other clauses in the decree closer to their heart. The packers by this time must be aware that few steps could be taken which would please producers more, or disarm more effectively those among them who are yet inclined to doubt their entire good faith when it comes to matters of co-operation. If it is necessary, in order to utilize their facilities to full advantage, that they expand their operations to include dairy products, fruits, and other food commodities, producers, we believe, will be inclined to yield a point, provided their main object is conceded.

As to stock-yard ownership, it is generally felt that changes in the marketing system make this matter of less importance now than when the decree was entered. Direct buying has increased rapidly, in spite of attacks from many sources. Just what the future trend will be, no one can foretell. Until the situation is better developed, it seems to THE PRODUCER that no modification should be made in this part of the decree. The ownership of stock-yards is no essential part of the packing business. It is not involved in the main issue of handling and retailing related or unrelated lines, nor in the question of the most efficient use of the refrigerator-car service. These great central markets should have the full confidence of all shippers, and, for their own protection from unjust suspicion, we doubt the wisdom of packer ownership.

Mr. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, who has been at the national capital in connection with the tariff, attended the meetings with the Secretary of Agriculture early this month, and testified as to the position of the National Association and numerous western live-stock organizations affiliated with it.

### RECIPROCITY

UNDER THE ABOVE HEADING, James D. McGregor, lieutenant-governor of Manitoba, appeals for no increase in the United States tariff on live cattle in an article in the May issue of the *Breeder's Gazette*. Mr. McGregor pleads community of interest, and says that "farmers in the Corn Belt areas have for many years been depending upon the

ranchmen of the western United States and Canada for their supply of feeder cattle." This would seem to imply that one country is quite as essential as the other in supplying the feed-lots of the Corn Belt, which, however, is not quite the case. His statement that "the Corn Belt feeding industry has reached a point where it is dependent upon Canadian cattle to a very large extent" is subject to challenge, and is hardly in accord with the statement which follows: "Canada actually imported from the United States [in 1928] \$4,162,901 worth of meats and common cattle, while she exported to that country a total of \$12,417,577 of those products. This leaves a balance in favor of Canada of about \$8,000,000, which is really a mere detail."

It has been assumed, because we have imported considerable numbers of cattle and quantities of dressed meat in the last few years, that we cannot raise enough beef cattle to supply our own table. Nothing is farther from the truth. The causes for the ruinous liquidation of our breeding herds following the war are too well known to require listing here. Happily, the last two years have been more favorable, and our herds are again on the increase. There is a tendency to increase beef animals on farms also, and we shall soon be on a self-sustaining basis. Given a stable market on a fair basis, the farms and ranches of this country will supply all the beef we can consume for many years to come.

With the tendency toward maturing beef at an earlier age, thus supplying lighter cuts to the market, with a move on foot more adequately to finance the National Live Stock and Meat Board, thus furthering the "truth-in-meats" campaign and assuring us of our rightful consumptive demand, and with chain stores going into the retailing of meat, thereby narrowing the spread between producer and consumer, the prospect for a more stable market appears better than ever before.

The fair attitude taken by the Corn Belt feeders in the tariff hearings is much appreciated by the range men. The feeders have taken the long view of the situation, realizing that their safety lies in encouraging production in this country. This is proved by the admission in the lieutenant-governor's article, as well as in other recent statements from Canadian sources, that their present surplus is only from 12 to 15 per cent of their total production, and is steadily decreasing.

American cattlemen have the friendliest feeling toward their Canadian brothers. Many of the latter emigrated from this country, attracted by cheap lands and low operating costs. Under such conditions, they should not expect free access to our markets.

There is real merit to the argument that the total trade between the two countries should be taken into

consideration. The present limited revision of the tariff is for the express purpose of putting agriculture on an equal basis with other industries. Cattlemen would raise little objection if this were partially brought about by a lowering of the rates on many of the things they buy; but, in the face of a flat refusal of eastern industries to accept lower rates—instead, further increases are asked—it is unfair to request the agricultural sections of the country to bear the entire burden of holding our international trade by maintaining low duties on their products.

The bill that is now being written will likely remain in force for eight years at least. Rates placed on cattle and dressed beef will, in large measure, determine the extent to which our own producers can safely expand their operations. It is an unfortunate fact that a rate which might be fair as against Canada would be wholly inadequate as against Mexico. This is to be regretted, but is hard to rectify. For the last two years imports from Mexico have increased at the rate of approximately 100,000 head a year.

No doctrine is so strong as the doctrine of self-preservation. We are still too close to the disasters of the war period to be timid about trying to protect and re-establish our industry. We have but to look around us to see that other countries all over the world are proceeding on the same principle. The live-stock industry has found by costly experience that it has no guardian angel—that it must look out for itself. In doing so, we ask only that others judge us by what they would do under similar conditions. If thus judged, the verdict can only be in our favor.

### CORN-BORER ADVANCING

THE WESTWARD MARCH of the corn-borer is continuing. It has now invaded Porter County, Indiana, which is just south of Lake Michigan and but twenty-five miles from the Illinois line. Before summer is over it may have entered the latter state.

During the present season the borer has spread south and west to twenty-two new townships in seven counties in Indiana alone. This is according to a preliminary report by the federal scouts checking up on the progress of the pest. The area may be extended when all the returns are in.

What was predicted when public attention was first directed to the presence of the corn-borer in this country—that eventually it would infest the whole Corn Belt—seems now to be only a matter of time. There has not yet been discovered any effective means of arresting it. The first season's work, when the government, with a congressional appropriation of ten million dollars, mobilized its forces and compelled the farmers along the path of the borer to clean up their fields, slowed up its rate of advance somewhat,

but did not halt it. Now that federal funds have been withdrawn, the insect is bound to move with increased rapidity.

This is another unfortunate illustration of the fatal danger of delay. If the fellow had been identified and tackled the moment he put in an appearance, there might have been hope of exterminating him. Now that chance is lost forever, we are afraid. What can be done seems only to be to keep the damage within bounds. The brunt of the work will devolve on individual farmers. But one careless man who fails to do his duty may frustrate the efforts of a whole neighborhood.

### LIVING A YEAR ON NOTHING BUT MEAT

TO TEST THE EFFECT on the human system of living on an exclusive meat diet for a long period and under the normal conditions of modern civilization, Vilhjalmur Stefansson and Karsten Andersen, the Arctic explorers, recently submitted to an experiment lasting a full year. The experiment was conducted at the Russell Sage Institute of Pathology in New York City, on funds supplied by the Institute of American Meat Packers, and was under the direction of a committee of scientists.

Stefansson began his all-meat diet on February 28, 1928, and continued until March 8, 1929. Andersen commenced on January 23, 1928, and kept it up until January 24, 1929. During this time they were under frequent observation by physicians, and for considerable periods were subjected to intensive study. Both led sedentary lives, doing brain work.

At the end of the trial they were declared to be in perfect health, with all their organs functioning as they should. No symptoms of a loss of physical or mental vigor were observed. Blood pressure, pulse, temperature, and sleep remained normal.

This, of course, may not prove that a diet of nothing but meat is advisable for the average person. But it does prove that even a liberal amount of meat in a rationally mixed diet is without the danger to the physical and mental well-being of the normal man so often pictured by those interested in advancing the claims of other foods.

### A. C. WILLIAMS REAPPOINTED

IT IS WITH PARTICULAR PLEASURE that stockmen in this part of the country have received the announcement from Washington of the reappointment of A. C. Williams, of Texas, as director of the Federal Farm Loan Bank. Mr. Williams' qualifications for this position are of a high order, and his services on the bank directorate have been such as amply to justify the expectations of his hosts of friends.

# WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING

## THE TARIFF IN THE SENATE

ON AUGUST 19 the extra session of the Senate reconvened after its summer recess, finding the majority members of the Finance Committee not quite ready to report on the Smoot-Hawley tariff bill. However, a draft of the changes proposed to be made in the bill as passed by the House was turned over to the minority members to sweat over, while the majority went ahead with the administrative features of the measure. On August 28 the completed bill was published, and on September 4 it was presented on the floor of the Senate.

In the agricultural schedules, the House rates on live animals, meats, and hides have been retained. On clothing wool, the present duty of 31 cents a pound of clean content has been restored, reduced from the 34 cents proposed by the House. The House provision for a 24-cent rate on wools grading 44s and below has, however, been eliminated, and the rate on rags has been raised from 8 to 24 cents a pound—the same rate as applies on carpet wools.

On sole, belting, and harness leather the House rate of 12.5 per cent has been advanced to 15 per cent, and on upper leather from 15 to 17.5 per cent. The House rate of 20 per cent on shoes is approved.

The duty on fresh milk has been increased from 5 to 6.5 cents a gallon; on cream, from 48 to 56.6 cents; and on skimmed milk, from 1.75 to 2.05 cents. Butter has been left at 14 cents a pound, as in the House bill, but cheese is increased from 7 to 8 cents.

Wheat and corn remain as passed by the House, but the duty on oats has been raised from 15 to 16 cents a bushel.

The House rate of 2.40 cents a pound on Cuban sugar has been reduced to 2.20 cents.

Shingles and cedar lumber have been returned to the free list, but the rates on cement and bricks are approved.

In the administrative features of the bill, the "flexible clause," giving the President power to raise or lower duties 50 per cent, has been retained. It is proposed in the future to base all *ad valorem* rates on the wholesale domestic selling price instead of the foreign value. The bipartisan character of the Tariff Commission, changed in the House bill, has been restored.

The fight on the floor of the Senate, and later between the two houses, promises to be long and bitter, and doubt is expressed as to whether it will be possible to pass a tariff act in advance of the regular session, which assembles December 2. There is a stern group in the Senate who insist on limiting tariff revision to the products of the farm, in accordance with the ideas of President Hoover. The contention of this group is that, if the manufacturing industries are given the increased rates of the bill as it now stands, the inequalities from which agriculture is suffering, and which the extra session was called to remove, will be as conspicuous and hampering as ever. Aside from this faction, there is the contingent who swear by the debenture plan, and who threaten to inject that issue into the discussion.

Secretary Mollin has been in Washington for the past two or three weeks, in the interest of a square deal for the stockman.

## WESTERN GOVERNORS DISCUSS GOVERNMENT'S NEW LAND POLICY

FOLLOWING THE HINT thrown out by Secretary of the Interior Wilbur at Boise, Idaho, in July, a definite proposition for turning the surface rights of the remaining unappropriated public lands, approximating 200,000,000 acres in extent, over to the respective state governments for school purposes has now been advanced by President Hoover. In a letter from the President to Assistant Secretary of the Interior Dixon, read by the latter at the Public-Land States Governors' Conference in Salt Lake City, August 26-27, Mr. Hoover discussed the reasons for his desire to recommend that Congress pass the necessary legislation for the transfer, and announced his intention of naming a special commission of nine or ten members, five of whom are to be leading citizens from the public-land states, to study the problems involved.

Western states, said the President, have long since passed the swaddling-clothes stage, and are today much more competent to manage their affairs than is the federal government. Every opportunity should be sought to retard the expansion of federal bureaucracy, and to place communities in control of their own destinies. The free lands of the public domain (not including national parks, national forests, Indian reservations, mineral reserves, and power sites) are valuable chiefly for grazing. Due to lack of constructive regulation, however, the grazing value of the lands is steadily decreasing from overgrazing and erosion, which is likely ultimately to have a marked effect on the water supply. The federal government, which derives no revenue from this source, is incapable of adequate administration of these matters, requiring a large degree of local understanding. Subject to the protection of homesteaders and the smaller stockmen, these lands should, therefore, be ceded to, and policies for their use determined by, the states, which in time would derive from them a proper return for their schools and increase their tax base.

On the subject of reclamation, the President would in the future lay chief stress on the storage of water. Reclamation, he says, should be confined to construction of permanent works, which at their completion would be handed over to the states, with no obligation for repayment to the reclamation fund, except for such revenues as might arise from sale of electrical power or water. The Reclamation Service should be authorized to join with states, local communities, or private individuals in the creation of water storage for irrigation purposes.

At the Governors' Conference a disposition was shown to look the gift horse in the mouth. Some doubt was expressed as to the value of the transfer, if mineral rights, together with the national forests and other areas set aside for specific purposes, were withheld. It was argued that, without these, the land might be more of a liability than an asset. Continual development of the oil resources, reclamation projects, and fed-

eral-aid road-building was deemed an essential condition to accepting the land.

The conference ended by indorsing the President's recommendation for the appointment of a commission, and pledged its co-operation. It was agreed that the governor of each of the eleven states represented should submit the names of three qualified citizens for consideration as members of the commission.

A "fair price" for power to be developed by the Boulder Dam project, as determined by charges in the competitive field, was demanded in a resolution. It was agreed to dispatch a letter to President Hoover, urging the continuance of the embargo against granting federal power permits on the Colorado River and its tributaries, pending negotiations among the states for allocation of the water.

Several other resolutions were adopted, asking for increased federal aid for highway construction, road-building through federal reservations, and forest protection, and condemning "the theory of federal ownership and right of control of the water and non-navigable streams in the western states."

Below we show the acreage of the public domain in the eleven western states:

	Acres
Arizona	16,911,367
California	20,209,421
Colorado	8,218,875
Idaho	10,734,420
Montana	6,900,144
Nevada	53,410,938
New Mexico	16,282,582
Oregon	13,227,141
Utah	25,147,867
Washington	951,903
Wyoming	17,035,537

#### DOINGS OF THE FARM BOARD

THE FEDERAL FARM BOARD, true to its announced policy, is making haste slowly. As Chairman Legge told the American Institute of Co-operation, in convention at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in July, "the board will not undertake to force its program on any group of people," but "will move only as fast as the farmers through their organizations are able and willing to accept the program," helping them to help themselves.

In line with this policy, conferences with officials of farm organizations have been in progress during the past month, with a view to consolidating existing marketing units within the various agricultural groups into large co-operative bodies for the board to deal with. The first of this series of conferences to bear definite fruit was that held in Chicago on July 26 and 27, when representatives of sixteen co-operative grain associations voted unanimously in favor of creating a Farmers' National Grain Corporation, with a capital of \$20,000,000, to be organized so as to be eligible for loans from the \$500,000,000 Farm Board fund. The main purpose of the corporation would be to provide "central marketing facilities and sales services for the economical distribution of wheat and other grains." Definite steps for the organization of this corporation were taken at a meeting in Chicago, August 29.

Next among the projects launched is the proposed nation-wide selling and marketing agency, producer-owned and producer-controlled, for handling the wool crop of the United States. This scheme was evolved at conferences with representatives of co-operative wool organizations, including the National Wool Marketing Council, on August 9. A meeting to discuss the details of the plan will be held at Chi-

ago in October, at which time a wool advisory committee is to be named from among the participants in the meeting. According to Frank J. Hagenbarth, president of the National Wool Growers' Association, the agency will have a distributing power of 150,000,000 pounds—half of the nation's clip—with means of expansion up to 250,000,000 pounds, and will thus be in position to dominate the American wool market.

The only loan so far made by the board has been one of \$300,000 to the citrus-growers in Florida, to help them exterminate the Mediterranean fruit-fly. A credit of \$9,000,000 has been furnished the Sun-Maid Raisin Growers of California, with which to make advances on the current season's crop.

A co-operative association, under the title "United Growers of America," with a capital of \$50,000,000, has been formed for the marketing of the nation's fruits and vegetables. Representatives of the association met with members of the Farm Board last month. It is planned to proceed under the terms of the Agricultural Marketing Act. The object of the association is "to provide a nation-wide and international sales service for the use of member associations."

In a conference with the Farm Board on August 13, officials of the American Cotton Growers' Exchange asked for an advance of 2.5 per cent on the value of this year's cotton crop, to supplement the 6.5 per cent available from intermediate credit banks and private sources, in order to assist in the movement and marketing of the crop. The board has tentatively agreed to this.

George E. Farrand, of Los Angeles, an outstanding lawyer, has been appointed general counsel for the board.

#### FOOT-AND-MOUTH OUTBREAKS TRACED TO INFECTED MEAT

ADDRESSING the American Veterinary Medical Association in Detroit on August 15, Dr. John R. Mohler, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, related how the recent outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease was discovered and suppressed, including a description of the manner in which the disease had been traced to infected meat from South America. "This," said Dr. Mohler, "apparently is not the first time foot-and-mouth disease has been introduced into the United States through infected fresh meat. The hogs first infected in the 1914 outbreak were fed on scraps obtained from a local butcher in Niles, Michigan, who in turn purchased frozen meat from a dealer whose records show that he had shipped to this butcher several thousand pounds of frozen meat imported from South American countries." The speaker also mentioned how, in the California outbreak of 1924, a herd of 600 hogs, which had been fed on garbage obtained from the Mare Island Navy Yard, was the first to develop the disease.

Dr. Mohler referred to the valuable findings of the British Foot-and-Mouth Disease Research Committee, and of the American commission which studied the same disease, mentioning the survival of the virus in the tissues of animals slaughtered for their meat, and on certain substances that commonly enter international commerce. The danger of infection through imported fresh meat from countries infected with foot-and-mouth disease, he said, was not generally appreciated before the publication of the findings of the British Research Committee.

A sodium-hydroxide solution as a disinfectant for rubber coats, gloves, and other clothing was cited as another practical result of research on the disease. This chemical is not only especially potent against the foot-and-mouth virus, but is much cheaper than bichloride of mercury, formerly used for disinfecting.

# THE STOCKMEN'S EXCHANGE

## BEEF-GRADING STATISTICS

KIT CARSON, COLO., August 21, 1929.

To THE PRODUCER:

The August PRODUCER quotes from the sixth annual report of the National Live Stock and Meat Board with respect to the activities of the government and the packers in the grading and stamping of beef. The report is quoted as saying that "government beef-grading has steadily increased." The figures given do not seem to bear out this statement.

During the first four months of 1928 the total weight of beef graded and stamped by the government, according to this report, was 10,244,300 pounds. For the same period in 1929 the weight was 9,678,108 pounds. This is a decrease of 566,192 pounds. It is my understanding that the government during 1929 stamped three grades, as against only two in the early part of 1928.

The report also shows that 1,627 fewer carcasses were graded and stamped by the packers during April and May, 1929 (the last two months given), than during the corresponding period of 1928. What has been done since the above dates I do not know, but I would suggest that THE PRODUCER secure the information from the government up to July 1, 1929, and publish it.

I am very much in favor of government grading and stamping of beef, and have been for many years. I see no reason why all meats should not be so graded and stamped. There has been a great deal of talk, and some work done, along the lines of standardizing and grading live cattle. This can never be accomplished unless we first have standard grades of dressed beef.

CHARLES E. COLLINS.

## UNITED STATES CAN FEED ITS OWN PEOPLE

KIT CARSON, COLO., August 10, 1929.

To THE PRODUCER:

Well, Congress has at last passed a so-called "farm relief" bill. I do not know much about it, but I venture the guess that it will cost the average farmer more in increased taxes than it will benefit him.

The new tariff bill is a joke. A tariff on farm products which we are exporting does not help us in the least. The most ridiculous thing in the bill, however, is the proposed tariff on hides and leather goods. A 10 per cent ad valorem duty on raw hides means about 25 cents on the average cowhide; but a 30 per cent duty on leather goods means approximately \$1 on a pair of shoes, and \$12 to \$15 on a set of harness such as the farmer buys. We shall be worse off than ever before.

I see in the May PRODUCER that J. H. Campbell, of Thedford, Ontario, makes a vigorous protest against a tariff on cattle. It seems to me that Mr. Campbell should be fair enough to give us credit for what our prohibition law is doing for

Canada. We are importing millions of bushels of Canadian grain, in the form of whisky, entirely free of duty, and many millions of dollars are spent by American tourists who go over for the sole purpose of slaking their thirst. If our prohibition law was repealed, Canada would every year lose millions of dollars more than the tariff on cattle amounts to. The same thing applies to Mexico.

The claim that we cannot produce enough beef here in the United States to feed our people is absurd. When Uncle Sam entered the war, in 1917, he told us that we must all increase production. We had to produce food to feed the world. And we did increase production. Everybody went the limit, regardless of cost, and the world was fed. In three years we had piled up such a surplus that when the Federal Reserve Bank (a government-controlled institution) called in all the loans at once, we swamped the markets with all kinds of meats and grains, until prices dropped down to such ruinously low levels as spelled wreck and ruination to farmers, and in particular to the cowmen of the West. Thousands lost their homes and everything they had—the hard-earned savings of a lifetime. Cowhides were kept on the free list, and the railroads were given a 35 per cent increase in rates. Ranchers and farmers were told that they must adjust themselves to the changed conditions. Taxes had been boosted 400 per cent—and they are still going higher. It took six years to use up that surplus and put prices back on a paying basis.

For the last two years prices on cattle have been satisfactory for those who have had them to sell. But that does not help the thousands of poor devils who were frozen out of the business. We can produce, here in the United States, plenty of food of all kinds for all our people, and for many millions more. All we need is for prices to hold up, so that a rancher can make wages somewhat in line with those paid in other industries.

C. J. OSWALD.

## IMPOSSIBLE TO PRODUCE TOO MANY CATTLE

TUCSON, ARIZ., August 19, 1929.

To THE PRODUCER:

I have just read the August issue of THE PRODUCER. Will you tell us how the range cattleman is to get any benefit from the Federal Farm Board?

After reading the article by C. E. Collins, I cannot see how we can ever have any overproduction of cattle in the United States. Our markets are killing fewer cattle all the time (see page 31 of THE PRODUCER). At sixty-six markets, in 1928, the slaughter was 6,647,379 cattle; in 1929 it was 6,123,057, or 524,322 less. And our population is increasing all the time. If more cattle were in the country, the markets would show it. When weaner calves are contracted at \$40 to \$52 per head (which is around 14 cents per pound), it shows that cattle are scarce; and when fat heifers bring \$13

to \$14 per cwt., there is not much chance of overproduction of cows in the near future. It would take a good many years to build back the herds in the Southwest to where they were ten years ago, if every heifer calf dropped on the range was retained to the age of ten years. Today there are fewer breeding cows than ever before in fifty years. Many of the cows on the range now have served their usefulness as breeders, and should go to market. But we have no heifers to take their place. So, sans cows and sans heifers, how can there be overproduction?

All of Arizona is now enjoying one of the best rainy seasons since 1920. Cattle were thin when the rains began about July 4. The country was very dry and feed very short. Cattle are gaining all the time; but the flies, the green feed, and the poor condition of cattle when the rains began will not show any fat cattle until November. In my opinion, every man should leave his cattle absolutely alone until the middle of October. They may look fat and feel good before that time, but they cannot be good and fat before November.

We are very proud of our Arizona Cattle Growers' Association. It is a wonderful help to all its members, and, in fact, to all cattle-owners. I often wonder how it is that we get so much for so little expended.

W. M. MARTENY.

#### CIGAR STORES AS MEAT DISPENSERS?

**I**N PURSUANCE OF ITS POLICY to acquire stock in companies upon which it draws for supplies, the United Cigar Stores Company has bought a substantial interest in the Hygrade Food Products Corporation, according to the *National Provisioner*. At the same time, it is announced that the Hygrade Corporation has taken over the operation of five plants formerly owned by the Allied Packers, Inc., together with their brands and trade-marks. Arrangements have been entered into whereby the Hygrade Corporation will supply the United Cigar Stores with its products.

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## THE MARKETS

### LIVE-STOCK MARKET IN AUGUST

BY JAMES E. POOLE

CHICAGO, ILL., September 1, 1929.

**C**ATTLE TRADE is still passing through a series of convulsions, and it is a somewhat painful process to those involved. Prediction that the summer and fall season would resemble that of last year, in that it would be different, has been abundantly verified. Narrow spreads were the outstanding feature of 1928 handlers of warmed-up cattle getting away with "murder." On this occasion they have failed to make the grade. A few finished steers in the top layer of cattle—\$16.25 to \$17—have found a stable market. Everything else has been in topsy-turvy condition, the \$13 to \$15 kinds having no dependable outlet much of the time. Between liberal receipts of merely warmed-up steers—the types that were star actors last summer—an avalanche of southwestern grassers, hot weather, an occasional run of shad up the Delaware, and a booming corn market, the trade has been on a ragged edge constantly, prices fluctuating widely, with a constantly lower trend.

#### Young Cattle Prove Best Actors

Yearlings, both steers and heifers, have been consistent performers, justifying confidence in calf-buying. Plain and rough heavy cattle have been the worst actors in the aggregation. A few prime heavy steers have been able to sell at \$16.25 up, but the big brutes were never in favor, indicating the fallacy of carrying ill-bred cattle into age and weight. "Snipes," and similar types of steers without feeder quality, have been tossed on a bargain-counter, selling as low as \$7 per cwt. Tucking their knees under a groaning bargain-counter, killers paid little heed to the two-way type of steer which feeders took away from them last year, the latter getting such cattle at \$10.50 to \$11.50 on this occasion without a scrimmage. Late in July a string of western steers wearing a Wyoming brand sold on the Chicago market at \$11 per cwt., that cost feeders \$14.25 at the corresponding period of 1928, although in better condition then.

#### Heavy Run of Fats Clogs Market

A sudden and voluminous accession to beef supply in July and August was a veritable bonanza to killers and distributors. As prices were well maintained to the ultimate consumer, the latter did not participate to any noticeable extent. Continuous heavy marketing of fat cattle from Kansas and Oklahoma pastures developed congestion at the market, the shambles, and the cooler. However, this congestion was promptly relieved, indicating that the public was buying beef. Lack of feeder competition much of the time did not improve trading conditions. A year ago, unless killers rode market alleys at the peep of day, they discovered that feeders had grabbed off most of their beef; but, relieved of this competition, they were dilatory, much of the daily supply going over into the matinee session, frequently into the next day, and occasionally into the next week.

#### Lower Grades Share in Decline

Ignoring the handful of finished steers of all weights selling anywhere from \$16 to \$17 per cwt., a spread of \$13 to \$15

bought the bulk of the fed cattle during August, and they were \$1.50 to \$2 per cwt. lower than at the corresponding period of 1928. The bulk of the grassers sold at \$9.50 to \$11, with a delegation of merely warmed-up steers at \$11.50 to \$12.50. A selling rush glutted the market on two distinct occasions, and, pending a forced clearance, nobody pretended to know just what the rank and file of steers were worth. Southwestern pasturemen alleviated distress to some extent by distributing their loading between a number of markets, and, fortunately, the Northwest refrained from loading heavily until the last week of the month. Values of grass cows, heifers, and bulls went down in a crash, even the recently prosperous canner and cutter market going on the rocks. By the end of August "hat-racks" were selling as low as \$5, and cows with a decent beef-sheathing at \$7.50. Always the upper crust of the crop, regardless of weight or sex, had a healthy outlet.

#### Good Beef Scarce

A few weeks previously killers had been squawking about lack of variety—too much good beef, with an insufficiency of "cheap stuff." Suddenly they found themselves buried in trash and mediocrity, but at their wits' ends to fill good-beef requirements. The result was a period of wild fluctuations in values of "pretty good" cattle, which were scarce one week, plentiful the next. Running true to form, the country loaded freely on every bulge, shutting down on breaks—a policy that was in no small degree responsible for seemingly unnecessary fluctuation and penalization. Much of the evil popularly attributable to the sphere of marketing may be definitely located in that of production, or, to be more exact, transportation. If regulation of the movement was practical, reasonable stabilization of values would be possible.

#### Hog Prices Reasonably Stable

In striking contrast to the cattle market, hog prices were reasonably stable, but, as they were out of line with corn, discontent was outspoken in producing circles. Instead of the high-flying market of a year ago, when average cost at Chicago began its advance from \$10 to \$12.50, culminating in the mid-September crash, the market started on a down grade, reversing last season's somewhat pyrotechnical performance. Passing through the perilous June period without the traditional slump, growers assumed that the market was ripe for a sharp advance, and in packing circles hope for a light July and August run was high. But the country ruled otherwise, July and August delivering a series of continuously heavy runs that literally broke the back of the price-list. Frequently the top at Chicago dropped below the \$12 line, heavy butchers selling down to, or below, \$10, and heavy packing sows below \$9, a spread of \$10.50 to \$11.50 buying the bulk of the barrows, and \$9 to \$9.50 most of the sows. Every light run marked prices up; every advance brought in big receipts, promptly erasing accumulated bloom. Bulling the market under such conditions, with a mountain of lard and stacks of cured meats in cellars, was obviously impossible. It simply could not be done. September may not develop the high spot this year, but, unless all past performance is worthless, there will be a high spot, probably somewhat later than in 1928, but exactly when no one can predict, although a successful guess is possible. Consumption of hog product is healthy, at good prices, and there is a fair weekly volume of export trade. Hogs, however, are not paying their board, repressing all semblance of enthusiasm in production and pure-bred circles. In fact, the pure-bred industry has rarely been so dejected as right now.

#### Western Lambs Thin in Flesh

Fat lambs sold on a \$13.25 to \$13.75 basis all through August. Champions of the price-stabilization idea may point

with pride, justifiable or otherwise, to this chapter of live-mutton history. Occasionally outsiders paid \$14 for picked lots, but the packer idea was \$13.75 for the best, \$13.50 for the rank and file, and \$13.25 for decent lambs; throw-outs making \$9 to \$10, and feeders anywhere from \$12.50 to \$13.75. As a rule, western lambs were a poor lot from the killers' standpoint, carrying long feeder ends which sold on practically the same basis as killing stock, the best natives outselling the upper crust of the rangers. At that, natives were nothing to brag about, from the standpoint of either condition or quality. At the outset it was evident that the western lamb crop was short in numbers and thin in flesh, but, as it happened, the meat-rail was adequately supplied continuously, eastern markets getting a grist of native lambs that atoned for western deficiency. Feeders came into the market at the middle of the month, boosting light lambs 25 cents and heavier kinds half a dollar or more, the bulk of the country purchase going on a \$13 to \$13.75 basis, or practically the same as killer prices. Fat sheep slipped 50 cents per cwt. to the lowest level in several seasons, heavy ewes selling at \$4.50 to \$5, and lights stopping at \$6. The break in wool, together with the June-July crash in fat lambs, put the breeding-ewe market, booming a year ago, "on the blink."

#### FEEDERS TURN TO LIGHT CATTLE

J. E. P.

FEEDERS' INTENTIONS are always an unknown quantity until manifested. This season such manifestation was deferred, recalling the rollicking buying of 1928, when money was apparently no object, provided cattle could be acquired. The absurd hallucination, cherished by many, that diminishing cattle slaughter portended extinction of the bovine species, and that the stuffed hide of the last steer would be displayed alongside that of the dodo in the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, has died out. Even the most rampant of the cattle—"shortage" doctrinarians did not resort to that contention; but when any human element decides to go on a spree—financial, alcoholic, or otherwise—opposition is futile. This is the period of the headache resulting from that debauch,

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and, as is invariably the case, the pendulum has swung to an extreme in the opposite direction. Those who disregarded intrinsic values last year have been reluctant to invest on what is probably below that basis at present.

However, by the middle of August the "wise guys" were in the saddle, a respectable congregation appearing in the stocker alleys. Demand proved healthy for everything save heavy steers, and, emulating the burned child in dread of fire, the country turned down both thumbs when offered that type of steers, only a small coterie of veterans mustering sufficient courage to go against them. At Kansas City the fleshy type with weight, popular a year ago at \$14 to \$15.50, sold at \$12.50 to \$13.75, and at Chicago a few hundred two-way bullocks found the country outlet at \$10.50 to \$13.35; but the average "booker" was interested in light cattle—yearlings costing \$11 to \$11.50, and other types of underweights costing anywhere from \$8.50 to \$10.50. Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and Indiana came on to the reservation in quest of cattle, creating an impression that there will be "something doing" later.

Last summer's craze to buy cattle "on the range" has disappeared. Competition will concentrate at the markets this year, and it may not be an unmixed evil for the grower. Last year, when he sold in the pasture, deals were not consummated finally, whereas at the market he knows just where he gets off, and secures prompt remittance of sale proceeds. The fact is patent that a strong potential demand for stock cattle exists, and that it will be satisfied, subject to certain indeterminable influences, not the least of which is the outcome of the growing corn crop, which was decidedly uncertain at the end of August. A bull corn market is always bearish on stocker prices, but old

conditions no longer exist, and although stocker buying may be deferred, as in the case of wash-day, it cannot be indefinitely postponed. All the handwriting on the wall suggests that the wind-up of this season's stocker market will mark high tide, and that those who pick early will pick to best advantage. There is a large and audible element confident that the October break of last year will be repeated, ignoring the fact that that break was made possible by a brief period of inflation that will not be repeated on this occasion. Thousands of feeders are awaiting the "low spot," so that a tendency on the part of prices to work higher would stimulate buying.

Bankers are neither courting cattle paper nor encouraging investment in stockers, as the time-money market at Chicago and New York is attracting their surplus funds, and just as long as the bull element is able to boost stocks, a few points in the call-money rate will not check its activity. Cattle money is costing 1 per cent more than a year ago, and competent feeders are finding no difficulty in getting accommodation on that basis, although there is a disposition to require borrowers to put more of their own money into their cattle purchases, which is neither unreasonable nor disadvantageous to regular feeders, as such a policy will put a crimp in the gambler and pestiferous in-and-outer—always a demoralizing influence on prices and production. Easy money has been a hardship rather than a beneficence to the industry, exerting periodical demoralization and operating disadvantageously to the reputable element.

Monetary conditions are calculated to repress investment in breeding cattle or rehabilitation of the industry. High prices bid by feeders for calves exert the same influence. The southwestern calf crop has been practically sold up on a \$45- to \$50-per-head basis, with a few well-bred steer calves at \$50. One string of steer calves weighing 380 pounds sold in the Panhandle at \$50 per head recently, and another about the same weight at \$11.80 per cwt. Extra-qualified bunches are priced at \$13 per cwt., or \$60 per head. In Montana, Corn Belt feeders have paid \$45 to \$55 per head for calves, basing prices on feed-lot performance by the same brands this year. Alberta calves have been contracted on Corn Belt account at \$40 to \$50 per head.

#### MEXICAN CATTLE AN UNPROFITABLE INVESTMENT

J. E. P.

WHEN KANSAS AND OKLAHOMA PASTURES were filled to the limit with cattle last spring, trouble at the dislodgment stage was apprehended by trade students, owing to the large proportion of Mexican steers not eligible to the feed-lot. The Mexican delegation was a legacy of the 1928 boom, sending speculators into the region below the Rio Grande in quest of cattle, which they assembled along the line from Nogales to Laredo by the hundred thousand. Texas grass was available at the time in extensive acreage, owing to prosecution of the tick-eradication campaign previously, cattlemen taking the alternative to dipping by shipping cattle out. The Mexican importation afforded opportunity for temporary restocking.

Naturally, this army of Mexicans comprised transit cattle on their way to market, and, having been acquired at boom, or inflated, prices, loss in the finality of the operation was inevitable. This loss has been "pocketed" this season, to use a Hibernianism. What the loss, aggregate or individual, will be will never reach the computation stage, but would be adequate to capitalizing a husky national bank. For one thing, the Mexican cattle invasion of 1928 had a demoralizing influence

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on the domestic cattle market of 1929, and was largely responsible for the crash in values during August, when this type of steer broke \$1 per cwt., carrying downward everything wearing a hide with which it came in competition.

Without the Mexican delegation, Kansas and Oklahoma pastures would not have been gorged to the repletion stage last spring. These cattle got fat, and, while the product lacked quality, it made a decided accession to the season's beef tonnage. Owners have used considerable judgment in the marketing process, distributing their cattle between Kansas City, Chicago, St. Joe, and St. Louis; but the dose was heavy and difficult to digest. At intervals congestion developed at the markets, necessitating carry-overs and low prices.

At the end of August the visible supply of Mexicans in the southwestern pastures was still large, but abundant rain had furnished stock water to carry them along, and, as they were losing money, holders had incentive to string them out to get every possible pound of gain, and in the hope that prices would work no lower, at least. Grass being paid for by the season at a high rate, holding until the last possible moment was logical.

This season's run of Mexicans from southwestern pastures, taking into the reckoning a carry-over that will be cleaned up next year, represents a "last run of shad," as ubiquitous speculators practically swept northern Mexico bare during last season's gathering campaign, and the insurrection meanwhile has virtually depleted the cattle storehouse below the Rio Grande, which will be a beneficence for domestic growers.

#### FEEDING ON CONTRACT NOT SO POPULAR AS IT WAS

J. E. P.

BETWEEN THE ADVANCE IN CORN and current stock-cattle cost, contract feeding has become unpopular with those who have financed such operations in recent years. The theory of contract feeding is that the farmer gets a guarantee for the gain he makes equal in value to the cost of corn consumed, his profit being founded on hog feed and manure. He is also relieved of the hazard incidental to and inseparable from the operation.

Theories, however, do not work out in practice. This season, those who put out cattle on feeding contracts by the thousand have lost a barrel of money, owing to disparity in initial cost of cattle and minus margins in the finality of the operation, while feeders in many instances did not make expected gains. The fact is that cattle-feeding on an extensive scale is highly hazardous, and that beef-making is a farm proposition incidental to farm operations. Bonanza feeding of both cattle and hogs has received extensive publicity at the hands of newspaper and magazine writers in quest of "hot stuff," but the shores of the industry are strewn with the wrecks of such enterprises.

#### LAMB MARKET ON STEADY BASIS

J. E. P.

APOSTLES OF LIVE-STOCK PRICE STABILIZATION are invited to consider the summer lamb market. Subsequent to the sharp June decline, that trade went on a \$13.50 basis, with a narrow spread of \$13.25 to \$13.50 on the bulk of the crop, moving in that groove for weeks in succession, while cattle prices were hopping around to the tune of 75 cents to \$1 per cwt. either way within a few hours. Various reasons are

assigned for lamb-market stability, not the least of which has been a disposition on the part of feeders to pay fat-lamb prices for anything suited to their purpose. Another reason is that killers have been able to "clean up" on lambs acquired between \$13 and \$14 per cwt.

Compared with the high market last spring, lambs have been low; contrasted with values of a few years back, they are high. Less than twenty years ago the late Joe Wing, then a star writer for the *Breeder's Gazette*, predicted in an exuberant moment that a time was approaching when killers would pay \$10 per cwt. or more for fat lambs. His reward was ridicule, and he did not live to see his prediction realized.

Had the western lamb-growing area produced a normal lamb crop this season, a \$13.50 market at Chicago would have been doubtful; but between a hard winter and a dry summer, the western crop was not only reduced in numbers, but deteriorated in quality, reaching the market with a long feeder end. So deficient was condition of the western run that top natives frequently outsold the best westerns by 50 cents per cwt. August developed a broad feeder demand, at prices on a parity with killing lambs, or \$13 to \$13.75 per cwt., and competition between feeders and killers on certain types of black-face lambs with weight, but lacking finish, that added 50 cents per cwt. to their



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value. Feeder demand was a stout prop under the price-list. A normal volume of western lambs and less feeder demand would have put the whole market down to a \$12 basis.

Expanding production spells lower prices. The problem of the lamb-grower is consumption rather than production. There is a definite limit to consumptive requirements, and whenever supply exceeds this limit, even for a single week, the dressed market blows up. Lamb is a highly perishable product, so that any week-end accumulation must be jettisoned for what it will bring. Consumption can be stimulated only at lower prices.

Naturally, the break in wool and a slumpy lamb market have been effective in checking demand for breeding ewes—a branch of the trade that was buoyant last year at close to war prices. The West has made yearling ewes in such numbers that the surplus must either go to the butcher or be retained for flock rehabilitation, the probability being that a lot of old ewes will go to the butcher this year, although they are realizing little more than enough to pay freight and incidental expenses. The fat-ewe market collapsed in August under slightly increased receipts, indicating paucity of mutton demand. From the standpoint of the western lamb-raiser, sacrificing aged ewes to retain yearling stock is better business than sending the latter into the Corn Belt to compete with his own product. In consequence of declining wool and lamb prices, the recent farm-flock furore east of the Missouri River has subsided, with scant prospect of revival, even Kentucky having backed out of the breeding-ewe market this season. As late as last May farmers were buying anything resembling a useful ewe at war prices, but when fat lambs broke \$3 per cwt. their enthusiasm cooled.

Increase in native-lamb production recently has swelled current supply of that type of stock, which has been selling on the Chicago market at anywhere from \$9.50 to \$14 per cwt., while the spread on the bulk of the western offering has rarely exceeded 50 cents per cwt. When farmers go to raising lambs, number rather than quality is their apparent objective. The "grow more sheep" boosters should renovate their slogan. A considerable percentage of the so-called native lambs marketed this season will not pay cost of production, if that cost should be determined. Like Topsy, they "just grow." If the western grower pursued the same methods, the sheriff would speedily get him.

#### LIVE STOCK AT STOCK-YARDS

APPENDED ARE TABLES showing receipts, shipments, and slaughter of live stock at sixty-six markets for the month of July, 1929, compared with July, 1928, and for the seven months ending July, 1929 and 1928:

##### RECEIPTS

	July		Seven Months Ending July	
	1929	1928	1929	1928
Cattle*	1,162,920	1,158,045	7,285,977	7,805,424
Calves	495,812	492,349	3,488,017	3,638,225
Hogs	3,257,303	2,923,924	25,767,770	28,888,997
Sheep	2,111,965	1,897,571	12,985,524	12,248,723

##### TOTAL SHIPMENTS†

	July		Seven Months Ending July	
	1929	1928	1929	1928
Cattle*	448,653	464,424	2,936,228	3,233,565
Calves	143,265	143,960	971,806	1,025,202
Hogs	1,199,088	1,192,771	9,649,668	10,592,474
Sheep	876,283	827,937	5,862,367	5,643,130

##### STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS

	July		Seven Months Ending July	
	1929	1928	1929	1928
Cattle*	159,207	175,038	1,257,348	1,382,279
Calves	14,088	21,218	132,870	135,827
Hogs	38,472	44,965	389,006	462,311
Sheep	230,680	234,155	1,308,136	1,163,479

##### LOCAL SLAUGHTER

	July		Seven Months Ending July	
	1929	1928	1929	1928
Cattle*	683,198	652,079	4,251,159	4,436,736
Calves	356,153	361,417	2,517,034	2,653,991
Hogs	2,054,898	1,719,100	16,095,090	18,277,184
Sheep	1,216,439	1,067,821	7,099,162	6,606,678

\*Exclusive of calves.

†Including stockers and feeders.

#### HIDES WORKING TO HIGHER LEVELS

J. E. P.

ACTIVITY DEVELOPED in both hide and leather circles late in August. Spot prices advanced, and the futures market responded. South American trade was also active, at

#### Herd Bulls

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higher prices. Independent packer hides showed sympathetic influence, and the country market displayed a strong undertone.

Heavy native steers were quoted up to 20 cents, and spready native steers to 22 cents. Heavy Texas steers made 19 cents, and butt-branded were worth the same money. Colorado steers were taken at Chicago on eastern account at 18 cents; packers getting 18½ cents for heavy native cows, 18 cents for light native cows, and 17 cents for branded cows.

All-weight country hides sold at 13½ cents selected, delivered, sellers holding for 14 cents. Sixty-pound-and-up cows sold at 12½ cents; buff weights—45 to 60 pounds—at 13½ cents, with 14 cents asked.

Big packers have not offered more than their kill, and have been closely sold up, expecting more money for prime-quality hides. Developments of a favorable nature are expected in September, the probability being that small packers will get more money if big packer stocks continue to be closely held.

Not only has the hide market worked to higher levels, but activity has been well sustained. Packers could have moved liberal quantities at current prices. A significant feature is that shoe-manufacturing tanners have been free buyers. That other tanners who make leather only are in need of good hides is generally understood.

Strength in country hides has been emphasized by scant offerings from the interior.

Activity in the leather market indicates a healthy demand for footwear. Raw-leather stocks are firm, with an advancing tendency. Sole leathers have been firmer than upper stocks, but a pronounced movement in the latter is due.

#### COMPARATIVE LIVE-STOCK PRICES

**B**ELOW ARE FIGURES showing prices on the principal classes and grades of live stock at Chicago on September 3, 1929, compared with August 1, 1929, and August 30, 1928:

	Sept. 3, 1929	Aug. 1, 1929	Aug. 30, 1928
SLAUGHTER STEERS:			
Choice (1,100 to 1,500 lbs.)	\$15.75-16.75	\$15.50-16.75	\$16.60-17.65
Good	13.25-15.75	13.25-15.75	14.75-16.75
Choice (1,100 lbs. down)	15.75-17.00	15.50-16.50	16.75-17.75
Good	13.25-15.75	13.00-15.50	15.70-16.90
Medium (800 lbs. up)	10.75-13.25	11.25-13.00	12.50-16.25
FED YEARLING STEERS:			
Good to Choice	13.25-16.50	12.75-16.00	15.25-17.60
HEIFERS:			
Good to Choice	10.00-15.50	10.50-14.75	11.75-17.15
COWS:			
Good to Choice	8.75-12.00	8.50-12.00	9.25-13.25
FEEDER AND STOCKER STEERS:			
Good to Choice (800 lbs. up)	10.50-12.50	11.50-13.00	11.75-13.85
Common to Medium	8.25-10.50	9.25-11.50	9.50-11.75
Good to Choice (800 lbs. down)	10.50-12.50	11.50-12.75	11.75-13.60
Common to Medium	8.00-10.50	9.00-11.50	9.50-11.75
HOGS:			
Medium Weights (200 to 250 lbs.)	10.35-11.50	11.15-12.25	11.75-13.00
LAMBS:			
Medium to Choice (84 to 92 lbs.)	10.75-13.60	11.25-13.85	12.50-15.15

#### TREND OF WOOL PRICES UPWARD

J. E. P.

**W**OOL PRICES show a decided tendency to work higher, the probability being that growers who consigned their clips displayed sound judgment. The recent upturn, based on five principal grades, exceeds one cent per pound, clean basis, with the trend upward.

There has been a decline in tops at Bradford, England, but Australian reports are that less wool will be offered there than last year, in which event British prices will be adjusted in an

upward direction. Such a movement would undoubtedly stimulate domestic prices at the Atlantic seaboard.

Dealers and manufacturers have less wool on hand than at this time last year, supply of foreign wool in bond is low, and the domestic clothing industry is admittedly prosperous, mills reporting good business for manufactured goods at profitable prices.

Atlantic seaboard markets report an increasing volume of business at firm prices, a sound manufacturing situation, and a demand distinctly favoring worsted wools. Repeat business is seasonably good. The trade has been awaiting passing of Labor Day for revival of activity. Tariff-tinkering is affecting

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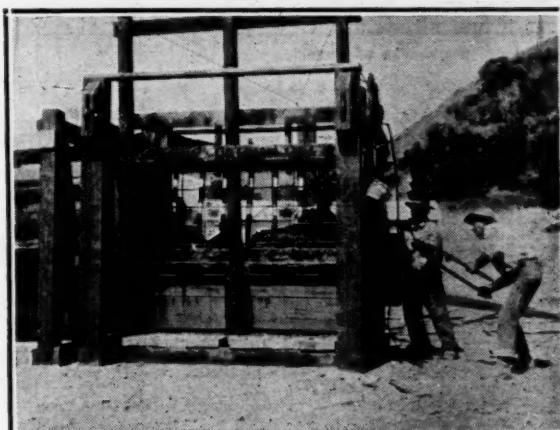
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current business inappreciably. Medium wools are in a particularly strong position.

So far as tariff changes are concerned, nothing radical is expected. There will be a fight over rates on noils, wastes, and woolen rags, which, in the interest of growers, should be raised, although the proposition will be strenuously resisted by dealers and fabric-makers.

Strength in medium wools is indicated by withdrawals from the market. Dealers have sold as far ahead as they dare, and have promised the first opportunity to certain buyers on any surplus wools they may make.

Demand for worsted wools has broadened. Bright wools advanced a cent during the last two weeks of August. Bright quarter and three-eighths have sold a cent above bids, and two cents above bid prices thirty days previously. All these signs suggest improvement.

While most of current trading is in small lots, a large volume of business has been done in the aggregate, and purchases are considerably in arrears of inquiry. Indications are that buyers are endeavoring to protect themselves against sudden advances.

No adequate test of foreign markets is possible until the forthcoming opening of the Australian season, and the opening of the fifth London series on September 17.

#### HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

**B**ELOW IS A SUMMARY of storage holdings of frozen and cured meats on August 1, 1929, as compared with August 1, 1928, and average holdings on that date for the last five years (in pounds):

Commodity	Aug. 1, 1929	Aug. 1, 1928	Five-Year Average
Frozen beef.....	31,083,000	18,896,000	23,472,000
Cured beef*.....	14,706,000	13,546,000	19,267,000
Lamb and mutton.....	2,633,000	1,822,000	1,680,000
Frozen pork.....	229,930,000	245,714,000	177,882,000
Dry salt pork*.....	172,294,000	164,473,000	177,253,000
Pickled pork*.....	412,571,000	408,998,000	401,515,000
Miscellaneous.....	81,149,000	63,610,000	64,984,000
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>944,366,000</b>	<b>917,059,000</b>	<b>866,053,000</b>
<b>Lard.....</b>	<b>203,931,000</b>	<b>204,939,000</b>	<b>166,649,000</b>

\*Cured or in process of cure.

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#### Screenings (Fine Cracked Unground)

The most economical concentrate that supplies PROTEIN needed to supplement range forage and home-grown feed

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#### WHOLESALE PRICES ON WESTERN DRESSED MEATS

Friday, August 30, 1929

#### FRESH BEEF AND VEAL

	CHICAGO	BOSTON	NEW YORK
STEERS (700 lbs. up) :			
Choice .....	\$22.50-24.00	\$24.00-25.00	\$24.50-25.50
Good .....	21.50-22.50	22.50-24.00	21.50-24.50
STEERS (550 to 700 lbs.) :			
Choice .....	23.00-24.00	.....	24.50-26.00
Good .....	22.00-23.00	.....	21.50-24.50
STEERS (500 lbs. up) :			
Medium .....	16.50-20.00	19.50-22.50	16.00-21.00
YEARLING STEERS (300 to 550 lbs.) :			
Choice .....	23.50-24.50	.....	25.00-26.50
Good .....	21.50-23.50	.....	21.50-25.00
COWS:			
Good .....	16.00-17.50	18.00-19.00	16.50-18.50
Medium .....	14.00-16.00	16.50-18.00	14.00-16.50
VEALERS:			
Choice .....	25.00-26.00	24.00-26.00	28.00-30.00
Good .....	24.00-25.00	21.00-24.00	26.00-28.00
Medium .....	22.00-24.00	19.00-21.00	24.00-26.00
CALVES:			
Choice .....	.....	.....	24.00-26.00
Good .....	20.00-22.00	19.00-20.00	22.00-24.00
Medium .....	18.00-20.00	17.00-19.00	19.00-22.00

#### FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON

	CHICAGO	BOSTON	NEW YORK
LAMBS (38 lbs. down) :			
Choice .....	\$25.00-26.00	\$25.00-26.00	\$24.00-26.00
Good .....	24.00-25.00	24.00-25.00	22.00-24.00
Medium .....	21.00-23.00	21.00-24.00	19.00-22.00
LAMBS (39 to 45 lbs.) :			
Choice .....	25.00-26.00	25.00-26.00	24.00-26.00
Good .....	24.00-25.00	24.00-25.00	22.00-24.00
Medium .....	21.00-23.00	21.00-24.00	19.00-22.00
LAMBS (46 to 55 lbs.) :			
Choice .....	23.00-24.00	23.00-24.00	24.00-25.00
Good .....	22.00-23.00	22.00-23.00	22.00-24.00
MUTTON (Ewes, 70 lbs. down) :			
Good .....	11.00-13.00	13.00-14.00	10.50-12.00
Medium .....	9.00-11.00	11.00-13.00	9.00-10.00

#### FRESH PORK CUTS

	CHICAGO	BOSTON	NEW YORK
LOINS:			
8-10 lb. av.....	\$31.00-32.00	\$29.00-31.00	\$29.00-31.00
10-12 lb. av.....	29.00-30.00	29.00-30.00	28.00-30.00
12-15 lb. av.....	24.00-26.00	26.00-27.00	25.00-27.00
16-22 lb. av.....	18.00-22.00	21.00-23.00	21.00-22.00

#### FEEDSTUFFS

**C**OCCOTONSEED CAKE AND MEAL, f. o. b. Texas points, on September 4 was priced at \$41 per ton. On September 3 hay prices at the Kansas City market were: Alfalfa—No. 1 extra leafy, \$24.50 to \$26; No. 2 extra leafy, \$23 to \$24; No. 1, \$21.50 to \$22; No. 2 leafy, \$18 to \$21; No. 2, \$16.50 to \$18; No. 3 leafy, \$15 to \$16.50; No. 3, \$14 to \$15; sample, \$11 to \$13.50; prairie—No. 1, \$9.50 to \$10; No. 2, \$8 to \$9; No. 3, \$7.50 to \$8; sample, \$6.50 to \$7; timothy, new crop—No. 1, \$14.50 up; No. 2, \$13.50 to \$14; No. 3, \$11 to \$13; sample, \$9.50 to \$10.50; timothy clover-mixed—No. 1, \$14.50 up; No. 2, \$13 to \$14; No. 3, \$9 to \$12.50.

#### Canada's Trade with United States

During the twelve months ending May 31, 1929, Canada exported to the United States goods having a value of \$508,246,000. Imports into the Dominion from the United States amounted to \$895,023,000. Total exports from Canada for the year in question were \$1,384,753,000, while imports were valued at \$1,296,739,000.

# TRADE REVIEW

## OUR FOREIGN COMMERCE IN LIVE-STOCK PRODUCTS

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS of live animals, hides and skins, and wool, and imports of meats (for meat exports see the August PRODUCER, page 32), for the six months January to June, 1929, as compared with the corresponding period of 1928, are given as below by the Department of Commerce:

### LIVE ANIMALS

(Numbers)

#### EXPORTS

	Jan.-June, 1929	Jan.-June, 1928
Cattle	3,580	6,300
Hogs	20,176	36,928
Sheep	520	843
Horses	3,713	8,283
Mules, asses, and burros	8,138	8,754
Totals	36,127	61,108
IMPORTS		
Cattle	263,314	252,402
Sheep	24,279	12,685
Horses	2,364	1,849
Totals	289,957	266,936
Hogs (pounds)	71,602	3,029,705

### MEATS

(Pounds)

#### IMPORTS

Beef, fresh	17,399,048	11,289,664
Veal, fresh	2,654,643	4,603,540
Pork, fresh	2,510,563	3,012,322
Mutton, fresh	1,074,720	673,019
Lamb, fresh	2,141,267	1,404,771
Other fresh meats	2,776,641	2,548,892
Canned meats	48,730,363	26,102,960
Beef and veal, cured	2,698,475	3,036,033
Hams and bacon	1,114,098	1,382,426
Pork, pickled	1,167,452	1,546,600
Other prepared meats	4,831,069	5,555,115
Totals	87,098,339	61,155,342

### HIDES AND SKINS

(Pounds)

#### EXPORTS

Cattle hides	11,771,890	11,195,763
Calf skins	3,798,762	6,843,247
Sheep and goat skins	1,123,432	1,077,001
Others	3,372,614	3,710,101
Totals	20,066,698	22,826,112

#### IMPORTS

Cattle hides	101,546,219	161,366,196
Buffalo hides	1,596,095	4,414,616
Kip and calf skins	25,059,420	23,170,503
Horse, colt, ass hides	6,228,509	7,695,678
Sheep and lamb skins	33,399,632	32,983,976
Goat and kid skins	51,580,213	47,908,648
Kangaroo skins	306,711	460,427
Deer and elk skins	1,260,207	1,460,707
Reptile skins	716,480	-----
Others	3,372,614	3,710,101
Totals	224,519,046	283,158,788

### WOOL

(Pounds)

#### EXPORTS

	1929	1928
Wool and mohair	121,905	321,864

#### IMPORTS

	1929	1928
Wool and mohair	167,100,134	104,717,420

## EXPORTS OF GRAINS

EXPORTS OF THE PRINCIPAL GRAINS from the United States during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1929, as compared with the previous twelve months, were as below (in bushels):

	1929	1928
Barley	56,996,000	36,581,000
Corn	40,749,000	18,390,000
Oats	10,846,000	6,034,000
Rye	9,346,000	26,046,000
Wheat	121,047,000	204,301,000

Corn, according to these figures, showed a gain of 121.6 per cent over last year, while exports of wheat fell off 40.8 per cent.

## JULY'S FOREIGN TRADE

EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE in July showed a slight gain over those of the previous month and were the heaviest for any July since 1920. Imports were about the same as for June. The figures for July and the seven months ending July, 1929 and 1928, follow:

	July		Seven Months Ending July	
	1929	1928	1929	1928
Exports	\$401,000,000	\$378,984,000	\$3,024,068,000	\$2,756,973,000
Imports	353,000,000	317,848,000	2,639,354,000	2,403,708,000
Excess of exports	\$ 48,000,000	\$ 61,136,000	\$ 384,714,000	\$ 353,265,000

"THE PRODUCER is a good, informative paper, and I cannot do without it."—S. J. GOFORTH, JR., Elgin, Ariz.

## DEHORNING Made Quick and Clean with the WILL C. BARNES D'HORNER

CAPS out the horn buttons, so that stubs do not grow. Quick and convenient to use, and least painful to the calf.

Cutting blades are tempered tool steel. Light, but sturdy. More in use than all other types combined.

Money back if not satisfactory. Send a check for one today.



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Postpaid anywhere  
in the U. S. Fully guaranteed.  
Order from nearest office.

## O. M. FRANKLIN BLACKLEG SERUM CO.

Denver Fort Worth El Paso Marfa  
Amarillo Kansas City Wichita  
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### A New and Different Horn Weight

No soreness or irritation—no marring of horns. Globe Horn Weights shape downward, backward, or forward as desired.  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1,  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 2-lb. sizes, \$1 a pair, f. o. b. Denver. Send for descriptive circular.



## EXPORTS OF MEAT PRODUCTS

EXPORTS OF MEAT, meat products, and animal fats from the United States for the month of July and the seven months ending July, 1929, as compared with the corresponding periods of the previous year, were as below (in pounds):

## BEEF PRODUCTS

	July		Seven Months Ending July	
	1929	1928	1929	1928
Beef, fresh.....	358,251	230,872	1,867,443	1,229,331
Beef, pickled.....	1,667,531	1,104,785	6,712,467	5,579,066
Beef, canned.....	242,540	175,190	1,656,398	1,364,827
Oleo oil.....	5,043,770	4,773,608	38,322,532	37,645,139
Totals.....	7,812,092	6,284,455	48,558,840	45,817,863

## PORK PRODUCTS

	July		Seven Months Ending July	
	1929	1928	1929	1928
Pork, fresh.....	808,092	503,149	6,824,227	7,290,698
Pork, pickled.....	3,445,808	2,634,776	26,169,135	18,853,992
Bacon.....	10,949,735	11,648,182	83,626,669	78,721,371
Cumberland sides.....	481,619	557,530	4,062,276	3,533,069
Hams and shoulders.....	12,620,922	13,556,828	80,276,797	83,162,918
Wiltshire sides.....	594,683	88,056	3,255,037	482,966
Sausage, canned.....	222,143	134,872	1,358,585	1,229,281
Lard.....	64,273,631	52,939,564	481,493,447	448,967,390
Lard compounds.....	377,696	322,773	2,191,706	2,712,391
Neutral lard.....	2,166,463	1,812,843	11,776,434	16,857,206
Totals.....	95,940,792	84,198,568	701,034,313	661,811,272

## WOOL PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF WOOL in the United States in 1928 are thus summarized in the *National Wool Grower* for August, 1929 (in pounds):

## PRODUCTION

Shorn wool sold by growers.....	296,000,000
Pulled wool sold by packers.....	53,000,000
Total .....	349,000,000

## CONSUMPTION

Domestic wool for clothing purposes..	406,000,000
Foreign wool for clothing purposes....	109,000,000
Foreign wool for carpets.....	140,000,000
Total .....	655,000,000

## FRUIT-FLY TO BE STUDIED

A SURVEY designed to ascertain the behavior of the Mediterranean fruit-fly under various climatic conditions, and to obtain accurate information as to control measures, will be undertaken immediately by our Department of Agriculture in Bermuda, in countries bordering the Mediterranean, and possibly in South Africa. H. J. Quayle, professor of entomology at the University of California, has been selected to head this work, which will be financed by private capital.

Every effort is being made by the department, in co-operation with the State of Florida and private individuals in the affected area, to exterminate the fly before its ravages have become so widespread as to make this impracticable.

"THE PRODUCER has been sent to Monk Brothers for some time. I have enjoyed reading it very much, and found in it considerable information which is valuable in our business."—GRACE MONK HALL, manager Monk Brothers Cattle Company, Los Angeles, Cal.

## FOREIGN

## ENGLISH LIVE-STOCK LETTER

BY JOSEPH RAYMOND

[Special Correspondence to The Producer]

LONDON, August 10, 1929.

"DEPRESSED AGRICULTURISTS," and, well forward in their ranks, beef- and mutton-growers, are pressing the new Labor government to declare its policy for the relief of the home industry. This declaration is promised for the autumn, but meanwhile English and Scottish beef-raisers have had small satisfaction in the speedy reversal by the new administration of the late Conservative prime minister's project for the favor of home meat against colonial meat in military-supply contracts. Mr. Baldwin's idea was that for the six winter months only home meat should be bought for the home forces—an idea very distasteful, of course, to overseas-empire producers. However, it was not that which has led the Labor government speedily to denounce the idea, but the fear of dearer food. For it was pointed out that, on the one hand, the home meat-grower would only partly gain by this preference, owing to the likely use for the contracts of Irish and Canadian store cattle quickly rushed over home pastures. Secondly, the only meat that would be sure to fill the gap of home meat being diverted to military use would be Argentine beef, and so the foreigner would, after all, receive the chief benefit.

The only new idea that at present seems to hold the field as a measure to stimulate the fortunes of home-killed meat is the extension of the Merchandise Marks Act to meat. English and Scottish beef is to be marked and graded in three qualities, and a start is to be made with this by no means easy undertaking this autumn, when from two centers, London (at Islington Abattoir) and probably Birmingham (from the town abattoir), home-killed beef will be marked to distinguish it from the imported article.

The Markets Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, which is organizing this policy, hopes that its establishment will revive a bigger demand for home meat, though some are doubtful of this. Indelible-ink lines, punctuated with small maps of England or Scotland, as the case may be, will be made from top to bottom of the carcass by rollers, and the process has been humorously referred to in the lay press as "making maps on meat."

The question that many in the meat markets of Britain are asking is what the effect of the meat-marking will be on the imported-meat trade. Merchandise-marking is a game that all parties can play at, and just in the same way as the reliability of certain lines of other imported produce may in the long run gain over home produce by its distinctive mark—for quality and cheapness win everywhere—so colonial and foreign meat-producers may take matters in their own hands and mark their meat distinctively, and thus gain a certain amount of favor and custom for it. This is thought to be likely to have a good result in the case of New Zealand lamb and mutton, which already stand at a premium over all other imported meat of the kind in Britain's markets. It has to be remembered, however, that an indelible-ink mark is likely to run on frozen meat when thawed. No other system than ink marking

seems yet to have been devised so as to last when the meat is divided into small cuts. It is not yet known whether ink marking on the surface fat will be found to be prejudicial to sale. Before many weeks are past, we may be all wiser in this direction.

It has been remarked this year what a big advance has been made by South American lamb in the British markets. The quality of this imported article is kept very regular, and its volume of sales steadily advances. Patagonian lamb, which finds favor among the industrial districts of the Midlands and north of England for its small, lean joints, has gained notably in favor.

The number of lambs born per 100 ewes in England and Wales this season has been estimated at 126, compared with 127 in 1928, while losses among lambs were estimated to be 9 per cent of the births, compared with 10 per cent in the previous year, and the number of ewes lost was 5 per cent, compared with 6 per cent in 1928.

The above-mentioned Marketing Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, among its recent activities in aid of farmers, has staged some demonstrations to show improvement in marketing methods. It is instructive, as revealing English taste in meat, to note what has been recommended in the case of meat. Quarters of beef exhibited have shown the weight and quality which are regarded as corresponding to the suggested descriptions of "select," "prime grade," and "good." The "select" carcass was from a beast of 924 pounds' live weight, at twenty months old, dressing out 71 pounds to the cwt. The principal point about such a carcass is the big percentage of the meat that is suitable for roasting. The carcass put forward as coming within the description of "prime grade" was from a 1,176-pound beast, two years old. It had an even covering of fat, and had dressed 68 pounds to the live cwt. The specimen of a "good grade" had weighed 1,400 pounds on the hoof, and dressed 64 pounds to the live cwt. The quality of meat was naturally not so conspicuous as in the prime-grade carcass, and the proportion of fat was greater. This grade, it is reckoned, would include the heavier types of steer and heifer, and also choice, well-finished young cows.

All sections of the imported-meat trade have been greatly disappointed with the recent slumping of the markets, due to overabundant supply and limitation of consumption from the probable cause of general industrial depression in many parts of the country.

The following table gives an idea of the course of retail meat prices during the past year, and their relation to pre-war rates:

	July 1, 1929 (Cents per lb.)	Increase over July, 1914 (per Cent)
Beef, British—Ribs.....	33.5	69
Thin flank.....	18.5	40
Beef, chilled or frozen—Ribs.....	21.5	47
Thin flank.....	11.5	19
Mutton, British—Legs.....	36.5	76
Breast.....	20.0	55
Mutton, frozen—Legs.....	23.5	71
Breast.....	10.5	28

It will be noted that the rate of rise in price is less for the poorer cuts of meat, which would seem to indicate that the consumer is more fastidious than before the war, despite any leanness in his purse.

"We think there is not a better paper existing than THE PRODUCER, and do not want to miss a single copy."—P. G. ELLISON, Young, Ariz.

## CANADA'S CATTLE EXPORTS

SO MANY CONFLICTING REPORTS have been published concerning Canada's cattle exports that we have thought it best to reproduce the below table from official figures given out by the Dominion Ministry of Agriculture, showing exports to the United States and Great Britain for the years 1922 to 1928:

	United States	Great Britain
1922—	189,760 cattle 27,720 calves	18,475 (mostly "stores")
	217,480	
1923—	96,873 cattle 24,074 calves	57,672
	120,947	
1924—	97,847 cattle 35,178 calves	79,435
	133,025	
1925—	86,748 cattle 62,313 calves	110,868
	149,061	
1926—	92,962 cattle 65,333 calves	79,985
	158,295	
1927—	204,336 cattle 78,668 calves	8,263
	283,004	
1928—	166,469 cattle 75,885 calves	405
	242,354	



## A NEW ERA for Agriculture Begins!

With the enactment of the Federal Farm Aid Bill, agriculture is placed on a sound footing.

The cattle business has come back, and our increasing population, in the face of decreasing cattle supplies, bids fair for a continuance of good profits in cattle-raising.

The sheep business is also enjoying a healthy prosperity.

Farm and Ranch lands are now lower than they were before the War. Past experience proves that a rise in land prices always occurs three to four years after a rise in agricultural and live-stock prices.

A well-known authority stated recently:

"We believe that the outlook for agriculture is now better than it has been for many years, and carefully purchased farm lands now offer a good long-pull investment."

**Buy Now and Reap the Benefit of the Increase in Value Which Is Bound to Follow**

We have Farms and Ranches in seventeen Western States. We shall be glad to furnish detailed description to bona fide buyers who will drop us a card stating in what locality they desire to buy.

## The Western Mortgage and Securities Company

Union Stock Yards

Chicago, Illinois

# THE BULLETIN BOARD

## SLAUGHTER CATTLE OUTLOOK

Supplies of cattle available for slaughter in the next twelve months are expected to equal those of the past year, says the midsummer cattle outlook report issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Although marketings of cattle this fall probably will differ little from those of 1928, the proportion going for slaughter may be larger.

**Castrate your Calves**  
by the safe, bloodless method  
**Burdizzo Pincers**  
prevent losses and save time and labor. Let us send you complete information. Write today.

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"Early winter marketings probably will be smaller than those of last winter," according to the report. "No marked change in the present active demand for beef is anticipated. Imports of cattle and beef, although increasing, are not expected to amount to more than a small proportion of our domestic production. Demand for stocker and feeder cattle, however, is not likely to equal the unusually strong demand prevailing in the summer of 1928.

"The seasonal trends in cattle prices are expected to be more nearly normal than those of the fall and winter of 1928-29. Peak prices for fed cattle probably will occur later in the season this year than last, while prices of other cattle probably will follow the usual downward seasonal trend. The increase in cattle numbers which now appears to be under way is expected to be moderate. Although

there is evidence that cattle are tending to increase in numbers, cattle and calf slaughter in 1930 probably will not be greatly different from that of 1928 and 1929, but some increase is to be expected in 1931 and 1932.

"Average prices of slaughter cattle and calves in the first half of 1929 were the second highest on record for the period, being exceeded only by 1919. The average of cattle prices was \$11.04, as compared with \$10.69 in the first half of 1928, \$8.40 in 1927, and \$6.82 in 1922—the low point in the general depression of cattle values which occurred in the period of 1921-26. Prices of calves averaged \$13.17, as compared with \$12.09 in 1928, \$10.44 in 1927, and \$8.45 in 1924 and 1922—the low points in the depression.

"The present cattle supply situation indicates a continuance during the next twelve months, with seasonal variations, of the general level of slaughter-cattle prices which prevailed in 1928 and 1929.

"The seasonal down-turn in prices of the better grades of fed cattle this fall is expected to occur later than the decline which started in September, 1928. Prices of fed cattle next winter probably will average higher than last winter. Prices next spring and early summer are not expected to differ greatly from those in the corresponding period this year. Prices of stocker and feeder cattle probably will average lower in the latter half of 1929 than in the latter half of 1928.

"Although some decline from the present high level of cattle prices is to be expected within the next three years, there seems little possibility that this decline will carry prices to the low levels prevailing from 1921 to 1926."



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KEEP warm and look well in our genuine cowboy clothing. Big values in choice quality Leather and Sheep Lined Coats, Lumber Jacks, Wool Shirts, Boots and Gloves. Stetson Hats, Fancy Rodeo Shirts. Saddles, Bits and Spurs.

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The cattle keep them working almost constantly, which indicates that they like them, and speaks well for their efficiency.

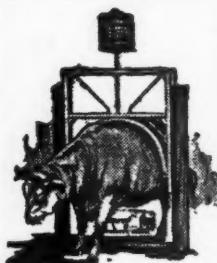
When the oil valves are properly regulated, oil is spread over the coat of the animal in a way that cannot be otherwise than useful in ridding him of lice and freeing him from the annoyance of flies.

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## EQUIPMENT OF CATTLE-YARDS

Breeders and feeders of cattle will find much of value in Farmers' Bulletin 1584-F, "Feed-Lot and Ranch Equipment for Beef Cattle," by W. H. Black and V. V. Parr, of the Bureau of Animal Industry, just off the press. The bulletin, which contains a number of illustrations of plans for equipment which has proved useful in handling cattle, is intended as an aid to cattlemen who are just entering the business, or who are contemplating alterations in their yard or corral arrangements. Separate sections are devoted to the subjects of sheds, windbreaks, self-feeders, feed-troughs, hay-racks, watering-tanks, feeding-floors, silos, scales, dehorning and branding-chutes, corrals, dipping-vats, and cattle-guards.

The bulletin may be obtained free on application to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

## NEW STOCK-CAR

A new type of stock-car, with provision for protective segregation of young and light-weight cattle shipped with heavier stock, has been perfected by the

Canadian National Railways, according to a report made public by the Department of Commerce. The car is described as having a steel runway extending laterally just under the roof, from which are hung two partitions adjustable to any part of the car. This makes possible the dividing of the live cargo.

#### LATEST STUDIES OF LOCO WEEDS

In the ten years since Farmers' Bulletin 1054-F, "The Loco-Weed Disease," was published by the Department of Agriculture, studies of the poisonous plants have continued. A revision of the bulletin just published lists, in addition to the purple, white, and blue locos described in the earlier edition, the half-moon loco weed, the sheep loco weed, the Thurber loco weed, and the two-groove loco weed. The new addition also deals with related plants which are poisonous,

but not loco weeds—the Pallister poisonous vetch, sometimes called "timber loco," the four-wing poison vetch, and the straight-stem poison vetch.

The current issue defines with greater accuracy the range of the different poisonous plants. Ranges often overlap, but the districts where loco weeds cause losses to horses, sheep, and cattle lie generally west of a line north and south through the centers of Kansas and Nebraska. Some locos extend north into Canada, and others south to the Mexican border. Of the more important loco species, the purple affects horses; the blue affects horses primarily, but also cattle and sheep; and the white causes losses of all three classes of animals. Ordinarily animals do not eat loco weeds if other forage is abundant, but on scant range, and in periods of drought, animals eating the weeds seem to acquire the "loco habit," often with fatal results.

**HARDY ALFALFA SEED**  
93 per cent pure, \$10 a bushel;  
Sweet Clover, 95 per cent pure,  
\$3. Return seed if not satisfied.

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By owners, 640 acres, near Laramie, Wyo. Level; irrigated; large improvements; has been cultivated, and grown record crops. Price, \$30 per acre. Also 1,760 acres near Hugo, Colo. One-half level, remainder rolling, with living water. Price, \$8.50 per acre. Both are wonderful opportunities for grain and cattle-ranching, and offered at sacrifice, because of death of former owners. For particulars address IRVING HOWE, Boston Bldg., Denver, Colo.

#### FARM BARGAIN

Improved 236 acres, adjoining Limon City, Colo. Fine schools, churches, elevators, banks, stores; trading center; two railroads. Must sell. \$25 per acre; easy terms. Write IRVING HOWE, owner, Boston Bldg., Denver, Colo.

#### FOR SALE OR LEASE

6,000-acre sheep ranch; none better; 75 miles from San Francisco; equipped with shearing and lambing sheds, and buildings; will pasture 6,000 sheep.

ALSO

4,000-acre 1A cattle ranch; over half tillable; alfalfa, burr cover, peavine, etc.; good buildings, and lots of water; with little additional pasture available will carry 1,000 head.

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#### Suitable for Sheep, Cattle or Recreation

Beautiful 3,600-acre ranch, foot of Sangre de Cristo Mountains. No trade. MRS. SHEPHERD, 847 E. Colfax, Denver, Colo.

#### FOR SALE

1,017 acres irrigated land, equipped and stocked, at sacrifice price. Write

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Feeder lambs and feeder and breeding ewes; stocker steers and stocker cattle. Write for list. T. L. BENSON, Commission Dealer, Naylor Hotel Bldg., San Angelo, Texas.

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Approximately 700 head of extra well-bred white-faced steer calves, ready to wean October 15. Address The Producer, 515 Cooper Building, Denver, Colorado



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Here is shown our Style No. 3052. A serviceable boot, snappy and dependable. Black Cereco Vamp, black kid top, one row of stitching. Stitched toe. A real value for only \$20.00. At your dealer's—or if he can't supply you, write us direct.

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### RANGE AND LIVE-STOCK CONDITIONS IN AUGUST

*Ranges.*—Dry, warm weather, which began in June, has cut the supply of range feed in Montana, Wyoming, the western Dakotas, Oklahoma, Texas, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and California, says the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in its August report. Rains during July improved range conditions in New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, western Nebraska and Kansas, Utah, and Nevada; but these states still have a few dry spots. Range feed in the West is not so good as a year ago, except in New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Nevada, which last year were short. High ranges are good, but lower and foothill ranges are dry. Fall and winter range-feed prospects are generally fair to good. The hay crop in the western states is lighter than last year, and the carry-over of old hay was less than half the average of the past five years.

*Cattle.*—Cattle on the western ranges are generally in good condition. In a few places dry feed and hot weather have resulted in a slight shrink. The calf crop has been good. Country buying has been limited this season, with most of the contracts covering calves. There seems to be little tendency toward restocking, except on a moderate scale. Dry, short feed in a few places may result in rather close marketing.

*Sheep.*—Sheep and lambs are doing well, due to favorable feeding conditions on the high ranges. Better feed in Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah has helped the lambs. Generally lambs have made good gains after a bad start last spring. A large number of feeder lambs were contracted early, and there seems to be a strong tendency to hold ewe lambs in several states. The local demand for old ewes is rather light, with the possibility of a considerable movement of old ewes from the range. But few young and yearling ewes have changed hands recently.

### WESTERN CATTLE SHIPMENTS

Prospective marketing of cattle from the seventeen states west of the Mis-

souri River during the five months August to December is estimated by the Department of Agriculture to be about 121,000 head, or 2½ per cent, below that of 1928. The number of cattle to move from this area, either to market or direct to feed-lots, is calculated to be 5,050,000, compared with 5,171,000 during the same period last year.

For the ten states east of the Continental Divide the fall movement is estimated at 4,264,000, compared with 4,343,000 in 1928. The seven states west of the Rocky Mountains are expected to ship 786,000, as against 828,000 last fall.

### CATTLE ON FEED SHOW SLIGHT INCREASE

Reports indicate that the number of cattle on grain feed in the principal feeding states on August 1 was about 1 per cent larger than at the same date last year, according to the Department of Agriculture. While all the states east of the Missouri River had more cattle on feed, this was largely offset by decreases in Nebraska and Kansas.

The number of feeders to be bought by Corn Belt operators during the last five months of the year is estimated to be about the same as in 1928. The outcome of the corn crop, however, has thrown an element of uncertainty into this forecast. Crop developments and trends of cattle prices during September will be important factors in determining Corn Belt purchases this fall. Demand will again, as last year, be centered largely on calves and yearlings, with some increase in cows and heifers, but a decrease in heavy steers.

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# Farm Relief Now Means Organization Nationally

**F**ARM RELIEF under the Agricultural Marketing Act will come through nationally organized commodity groups. Policies already laid down under authority of the Agricultural Marketing Act definitely state that loans from the \$500,000,000 relief fund can only be obtained through membership in designated co-operative marketing organizations operating on a national scale.

## THE NATIONAL LIVE STOCK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

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